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-----RECENT AI PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Burundi: Conditions in "regroupment" (forced relocation) camps. Amnesty International issued a medical action calling on the Burundian authorities to end the practice of forcible relocation and to prevent the spread of disease ensuring that the camps have access to humanitarian aid [see AI Index: 16/36/99 on 22 December 1999]. See:

<http://www2.amnesty.se/isext99.nsf/7ebd731e17db7550412566ee00476b3f/499f8c6e5204095ec1256850003b9a24?OpenDocument>

For the "Miami Herald" report on Burundi camps (1 January 2000)

see:<http://www.herald.com/content/today/news/americas/digdocs/023685.htm>

On 6 January 2000, AI reported that at least 43 people were massacred in Burundi by members of the government armed forces on 31 December 1999 in Kabezi commune, Rural Bujumbura. See:

<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/11600300.htm>

Russian Federation: Chechnya: For the Motherland. December 1999, AI Index: EUR 46/46/99.

Documents reported grave breaches of international humanitarian law and persecution of ethnic Chechens in Moscow. See <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/intcam/chechnya/index.html>.

-----DEATH PENALTY NEWS

Russell Baker examines the death penalty in the USA in the New York Review of Books. The death penalty was already falling into disuse in the United States when the Supreme Court ended it in 1972. ... Then something happened... ("Cruel and Usual", 20 January 2000). See:

<http://www.nybooks.com/nyrev/WWWfeatdisplay.cgi?20000120012R@p8>

A Sikora, AR Fleischman. Physician participation in capital punishment: a question of professional integrity. J Urban Health, 1999;76(4):400-8. This article argues that it is unethical for physicians within the role as medical professional to participate in capital punishment. See abstract at: http://www3.oup.co.uk/jurban/hdb/Volume_76/Issue_04/760400.sgm.abs.html

USA: John Paul Penny out of imminent danger of execution. He received a stay of execution from the 5th US Court of Appeals which has scheduled oral arguments on the case for 10 February 2000. He was sentenced to death in 1980 and again at a retrial in 1990 for the murder of Pamela Moseley Carpenter in 1979. He has serious mental impairment and suffered a childhood of appalling torture and abuse [AI Index: AMR 51/02/00, 5 January 2000]. For background see:

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/1999/AMR/25119599.htm>

USA: While only a few nations have executed juvenile offenders in the past decade, the USA is ready to carry out several executions of juvenile offenders in January 2000 and maintain its position as world

leader in this practice. See articles from Mother Jones and the Village Voice at:

http://www.mojones.com/news_wire/juvenile.html and

<http://www.villagevoice.com/issues/0001/gonnerman.shtml>

Amnesty International protested at the execution of Douglas Christopher Thomas who was 17 years old at the time he committed the crime [AI INDEX: AMR 51/04/00 on 11/01/00] See the full news flash at <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/25100400.htm>

Iran: The father of a murder victim reportedly intervened when the noose was placed around the neck of the young man convicted of the killing. See The Philadelphia Inquirer on 3 January 2000 at: <http://www.phillynews.com/inquirer/2000/Jan/03/national/NOOSE03.htm>

Clive Stafford-Smith, a British lawyer based in Louisiana, visited Britain this month to help set up an anti-death penalty charity, Reprieve, which will provide bursaries for young British lawyers who are willing to dedicate themselves to working for death row clients. See the London Independent , 29 December 1999: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/UK/Legal/deathrow291299.shtml>

Nigeria: death-row inmates get pardon. The authorities in Nigeria are pardoning prisoners who have been on death row for twenty years or more. Jerry Gana, Minister of Cooperation, said inmates who'd been awaiting execution for between ten and twenty years would have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. The government took the decision at its weekly cabinet meeting after a report from the Justice Minister, Kanu Agabi. It is thought that hundreds of prisoners could benefit. BBC News (5 January 2000): http://news2.this.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/africa/newsid_591000/591300.stm

Benetton's campaign against death penalty. With its latest advertising campaign - poster portraits of American death-row inmates - Italian fashion company Benetton is joining Italy's offensive against the death penalty. See Boston Globe (9 January 2000):

http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/009/nation/New_Benetton_ad_campaign_to_feature_US_death_row_inmates+.shtml

Amnesty International welcomed Benetton's initiative. See ACT 50/02/00 at <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/A5000200.htm>

USA: Florida. "Old Sparkly" to be replaced by lethal injection. The Florida Senate has recently approved a bill allowing death row inmates to choose to die by lethal injection. Some senators apparently said they voted in favour of the resolution so that executions can be speeded up. See the Miami Herald (6 January 2000): <http://www.herald.com/content/today/digdocs/060083.htm>
The NY Times (7 January 2000) reports that although 12.5 percent of Florida's population is black, about 35 percent of the 368 people on death row are black.

See: <http://www.nytimes.com/library/politics/camp/010700wh-gop-bush2.html>

USA: In his five years as a governor George W Bush has presided over the executions of 111 men and 1 woman, more than any other governor since the Supreme Court in 1976 allowed reinstatement of the death penalty. An article [NY Times on 7 January 2000] examining the link between the death penalty and Mr Bush's presidential ambitions can be found at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/politics/camp/010700wh-gop-bush.html>

The International Commission of Jurists has welcomed the 30 December 1999 decision of the Ukrainian Constitutional Court to declare the death penalty unconstitutional. (Both the ICJ and AI oppose the death penalty without reservation.)

See: <http://www.icj.org/press/press99/english/ukrj00.htm>

-----ARGENTINA REJECTS "DIRTY WAR" EXTRADITIONS

Argentina rejected Spanish requests for the arrest of 48 men accused of human rights abuses in the "Dirty War" of the 1970s, saying that more details were required before they could be considered. Spanish judge Baltazar Garzon has one month in which to resubmit the request for extradition. Garzon has charged 98 military, police and civilian members of the juntas that ruled Argentina from 1976 to 1983 with the kidnapping, torturing and murder of 300 Spanish citizens. Clarin reported, in Spanish, on 5 January 2000. <http://www.clarin.com/diario/2000-01-05/t-00301d.htm>

-----ARGENTINA: OFFICERS CHARGED WITH KIDNAPPING

Six retired Argentine naval officers have been charged with stealing a dozen new-born babies from political prisoners during the "Dirty War". The arrests marked the first time that military baby-snatching

has been investigated and will be followed by an inquiry into adoption rings allegedly run from the detention centres. An investigation carried out by the "Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo", concludes that some 400 cases of stolen children remain to be solved. See London Independent (10 January 2000)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/World/Americas/argentine100100.shtml> .

The Argentinean paper "Pagina 12" reported comments of Pedro Munoz, naval official, who gave testimony about kidnapping of infants during the dictatorship. See the full article [in Spanish] at <http://www.pagina12.com.ar/2000/00-01/00-01-10/pag05.htm>

-----UK: PINOCHET "NOT FIT FOR TRIAL"

Amnesty International news services

AI INDEX: EUR 45/04/00, 12 January 2000. AI alarmed at the Jack Straw's first indication that his decision will be made on the basis of a medical report: <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/44500400.htm>.

AI INDEX: EUR 45/05/00, 12 January 2000. AI called on the authorities to allow states requesting Pinochet's extradition to nominate their own medical experts in order to conduct a new medical examination: <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/44500500.htm>

14 January 2000. AI urged the states who have sought Pinochet's extradition to take all possible steps to ensure a fair and transparent process.

<http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/214jan00.htm>

Other NGOs: Human Rights Watch would urge the UK authorities to apply appropriate standards in deciding to extradite Pinochet. "Being a sick old man does not make someone unfit to stand trial", said Reed Brody, Advocacy Director of Human Rights Watch. See the full press release at:

<http://www.hrw.org/press/2000/01/pin0112.htm>

The IRCT (International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims) is calling for a second medical examination to be carried out on General Pinochet. The full press release can be found at

<http://www.ircct.org/News/pinochet.htm#UrgentMediaRelease>

FIDH (Federation Internationale des Droits de l'Homme) said it found Jack Straw's decision shocking as it supposes that Pinochet's failing health condition will absolve him of any responsibility concerning the crimes committed during his dictatorship.

<http://www.fidh.imagnet.fr/communiq/ch1lo010.htm>

Nunca mas Argentina: Open letter to Jack Straw. Illness does not make part of any penal code.

<http://www.nuncamas.org/editor/straw.htm>

Press: The British government is under pressure to disclose the results of the medical examinations carried out on Pinochet. See BBC news at

http://news2.thls.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_600000/600031.stm

While Baltazar Garzon's legal team is dismayed by the news coming from Britain [see BBC news on at http://news2.thls.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/europe/newsid_600000/600070.stm], the Spanish government seems to be pleased that the Pinochet saga is coming to an end. The NYTimes reported on 13 January.

General Pinochet is reportedly "delighted" by Jack Straw's announcement. See El Mercurio on 11 January 2000 [in Spanish] at

http://www.elmercurio.cl/noticias/noticias_dia/detalle_noticia.asp?idnoticia=13342

President Frei declared that Chilean tribunals will have to define Pinochet's responsibilities. "Chilean judges are independent and have the faculties to resolve the problem" the President declared. El Mercurio reported on 12 January 2000:

http://www.elmercurio.cl/noticias/noticias_dia/detalle_noticia.asp?idnoticia=13403

Who did the tests? The four independent doctors who decided the fate of General Augusto Pinochet were yesterday described by Jack Straw as of outstanding national and international reputation. See the London Guardian for the full article at

http://www.newsunlimited.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,121945,00.html

Reactions in pictures: <http://www.newsunlimited.co.uk/gallery/galleryguide/0,6143,121802,00.html>

A New York Times report (3 January 2000) looks at the effect of the Pinochet case in reviving memories of torture. <http://www.nytimes.com/library/world/americas/010300chile-pinochet.html>

Background material: See "The Case of General Pinochet", a compilation of news releases, reports and briefings by Amnesty International at <http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/intcam/pinochet/>

Key extracts from the British Home Office statement can be found in English at: http://www.newsunlimited.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,121695,00.html.

and in Spanish at <http://www.lahora.cl/especiales/cronica3.htm>

British Home Office background information on the extradition of Augusto Pinochet is available at:
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/oicd/jcu/pinochet.htm>

The judgement of the Bow Street Magistrates Court in the extradition hearing 8 October 1999 can be found at: <http://www.open.gov.uk/lcd/magist/magist.htm>

-----AUSTRALIA: KONRAD KALEJS

The Melbourne Age reports (9 January 2000) that the Australian government is under pressure to act against Konrad Kalejs, an alleged war criminal, after he publicly praised the way the government treated him. Latvian-born Kalejs is hiding in Melbourne after his deportation from Britain. The full article can be found at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/20000110/A15635-2000Jan9.html>

In the Sydney Morning Herald (11 January) former war crimes prosecutor Mr Athol Moffitt says that the possibility of bringing Kalejs to trial is unrealistic. According to Mr Moffitt, the fundamental difficulty would be "time". There would be difficulties with the memories of witnesses. For the full article see: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/0001/11/pageone/pageone7.html#top>.

-----INDIA: RELIEF TO TORTURE VICTIM

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Uttar Pradesh Government to pay immediate interim relief of Rs ten lakh to a victim of police torture and bear all expenses for his rehabilitation treatment. Disciplinary action against five police officers was also recommended, as they were found responsible for the brutal torture of Rakesh Kumar Vij which rendered him incapable of leading a normal life. For the full article see *The Indian Express* on 22 December 1999: <http://www.indian-express.com/ie/daily/19991223/ina23003.html>

-----GUATEMALA: MASS GRAVE DISCOVERED

The GAM (Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo, *Mutual Support Group*) a Guatemalan organization which speaks for relatives of 45,000 "disappeared" people, announced that a mass grave containing 16 skeletons was found in a clandestine cemetery in Zacualpa. According to CEH (Comision de esclarecimiento historico, Commission for the Historical Clarification) the armed conflict claimed the lives of 200,000 people. See Prensa Libre [in Spanish] on 7 January 2000 at <http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias138401829.htm>

-----POVERTY AND HEALTH

The International Poverty and Health Network was created in December 1997 following a series of conferences organised by the World Health Organisation with the aim of integrating health into plans to eradicate poverty. Its formation was a response to the evidence of the persistent and growing burden of human suffering due to poverty. For more information contact: IPHN, Tel: +44 20 7539 1570. Fax: +44 20 7539 1580 or <mailto:drew.r@healthlink.org.uk> (Roger Drew, UK); <mailto:sochara@blr.vsnl.net> (Thelma Narayan, India). For the full article: <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/320/7226/1>

-----NON LETHAL ARMS: A WAR WITHOUT BLOOD?

The horror of images of deaths caused by Western armies in military operations, designed to maintain peace and security, has led to the development of new arms that are intended to paralyse, not destroy. The so-called "non-lethal" arms have the potential to increase the level of violence, spawning ever more advanced techniques of repression. If democratic countries let their arms manufacturers develop these techniques, they will be exported to places less concerned about brutalising their populations. See the full article by Steven Wright in *Le Monde Diplomatique* [English version] <http://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/en/1999/12/?c=09wright>. (The French text was cited in *AI Bulletin* 25, 10 December 1999)

-----UN FACES GENOCIDE SUIT

For the first time in its history the UN is being sued for alleged complicity in the crime of genocide. Two Australian lawyers are acting for two Rwandan women whose families were murdered by Hutu militants during the 1994 genocide. The women claim that the UN soldiers whose task it was to defend their families either handed them over to their killers or ran away. See the Melbourne Age (10 January 2000) : <http://www.theage.com.au/news/20000110/A15633-2000Jan9.html>

-----CHINA: TRANSPLANT PATIENTS AT RISK

Patients were warned of the risk of receiving liver transplants outside Hong Kong after a Post investigation revealed a Guangzhou hospital had put unfit patients on the operating table. At least five Hong Kong people have had liver transplants at Sun Yat Sen University of Medical Sciences Affiliated First Hospital in Guangzhou. Two have since died and one was in hospital for three months after returning to Hong Kong. The fate of the remaining two is unknown. Doctors at the same hospital told a reporter from the South China Morning Post (10 January) that most of the organs were from executed prisoners. For the full article see http://www.scmp.com/News/HongKong/Article/FullText_asp_ArticleID-20000110003547280.asp

-----SIERRA LEONE: WAR TOO HARD TO BE SHOWN ON TV

Footage shot by the cameraman, Sorious Samura, exposing the brutality of Nigerian troops and rebels in Sierra Leone, was deemed too extreme for British viewers and has not be shown in the UK. See Sunday Times of London (9 January 2000) <http://www.sunday-times.co.uk/news/pages/sti/2000/01/09/stirevnws02007.html?999>

-----IRELAND: RECONCILIATION IN NORTH

The Irish Prime Minister (or Taoiseach), Mr Ahern said on Wednesday 12 January that reconciliation in Northern Ireland could take a generation. He spoke against a South African style Truth and Reconciliation Commission. See Irish Times (13 January 2000): <http://www.ireland.com/newspaper/world/2000/0113/wor4.htm>

-----PERU: PRISON CONDITIONS

Lurigancho prison in Lima Peru contains some 6000 prisoners in an institution intended for 1600. Hans Veeken of MSF Holland visited the prison and reports his findings in the British Medical Journal (BMJ 2000;320:173-175 (15 January). <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/320/7228/173>

-----TIBET: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

Repression of Tibetans by China reached new depths in 1999 with reports of "arbitrary detentions, forced abortions, and torture", according to a report released by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy last week. For the full article visit the Lancet on 15 January 2000 [may require registration] http://www.thelancet.com/newlancet/sub/issues/vol355no9199/body.news_pp210.html#humanrightsshownoimprovementintibet

-----BAHRAIN: ALLEGED TORTURER HOLIDAYS IN UK

According to the London Independent (6January 2000) the former head of the security police in Bahrain, who has been the subject of accusations of torture, has spent New Year on holiday in England untroubled by the British authorities. By the following day a police investigation had been announced. See: http://www.independent.co.uk/news/UK/This_Britain/henderson060100.shtml and <http://www.sunday-times.co.uk:80/news/pages/tim/2000/01/07/timnwsnws01033.html?999> AI welcomed the prospect of an investigation: <http://www.amnesty.org/news/2000/44500300.htm>

-----NEW WEB ADDRESS FOR CPT

The CPT (European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment) has a new Internet address: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/>

-----AWARDS

Dr. Ruchama Marton, the founder and chair of Physicians for Human Rights- Israel (PHR-IL), received the 1999 Emil Grunzweig award given in December 1999 by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI).

-----MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

WFPHA's (World Federation of Mental Health Associations) 9th International Congress: Challenges for Public Health at the Dawn of the 21st Century; Beijing, China, 2-6 September 2000. Call for abstracts: contact the WFPHA's Secretariat in late May / early June 2000 at the following address: 800 I Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001 - Tel: 202-777-2487 - Fax: 202-777-2534 e-mailto: allen.jones@apha.org. Further information at: <http://www.apha.org/wfpha/IntConf9.htm>

ICN 22nd Quadriennial Congress, 10 - 15 June 2001, Copenhagen. Theme: Nursing a New Era for Action. For all information regarding registration, hotels, exhibition, and abstract submission please contact: DIS Congress Service Copenhagen A/S, Herlev Ringvej 2C, DK-2730 Herlev, Copenhagen, Denmark. Tel.: +45 44 92 44 92, Fax: +45 44 92 50 50
E-mailto:icn@discongress.com
For more detailed information about the congress visit: <http://www.icn.ch/generalinfo.htm>

-----ARTICLES / PUBLICATIONS

Bronwyn Rebekah McFarland-Icke. Nurses in Nazi Germany. Moral choice in history. New Jersey: Princeton University Press 1999, 304 pp. ISBN 0-691-00665. Story of German nurses who participated directly or indirectly, in the Nazi's "euthanasia" measures against patients with mental and physical disabilities that claimed over 100,000 victims from 1939 to 1945. Further details at: <http://www.pupress.princeton.edu/titles/6707.html>

Mollica R, McInnes K et al. Disability associated with psychiatric comorbidity and health status in Bosnian refugees living in Croatia. The article concludes that Bosnian refugees who have recently fled from the war, psychiatric comorbidity was associated with disability independent of the effects of age, trauma, and health status. JAMA. 1999;282:433-439. See: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v282n5/full/joc90966.html>
But these conclusions seemed premature to others. See: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v283n1/full/jlt0105-3.html>

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