
**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

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Summary

AI reports & statements: USA: devastating suicide attacks / Australia: asylum seekers / Turkey: human rights defenders / World Conference against Racism ends

Further news: Brazil: AIDS program / China: executions / CPT: new reports / Israel+Occupied Territories+PA: interview with Gaza psychiatrist / MSF: reduces activities in Afghanistan / Syria: physicians and others detained / UK: tasers supported / US: Attacks on New York, Washington DC, Pennsylvania; UK to intervene on DP; fall in executions; Psychological Association backs moratorium

Conferences: death penalty, London

Vacancies: AI London, Doctors of the World, New York

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

Amnesty International was one of a number of organizations which issued statements following the devastating attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC as well as the crash of a fourth hijacked plane in Pennsylvania. Many organizations made statements expressing outrage and sympathy for the victims and their families. Amnesty International's brief statements on the attacks and the aftermath are available at the links below.

USA: Amnesty International appalled at devastating attack against civilians. 12 September [AMR 51/134/2001].

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/C1DE85C8705E0E4480256AC50047E0B9?OpenDocument>

USA: Justice, not revenge, must prevail [AMR 51/140/2001]

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/180A97244A72921780256AC6004D1340?OpenDocument>

See also statements by (among others) the ICRC, Human Rights Watch, Medecins sans Frontieres/Doctors without Borders, FIDH, Medecins du Monde.

<http://www.icrc.org/icrceng.nsf/c1256212004ce24e4125621200524882/29e576e53dd122a0c1256ac400609853>

<http://www.hrw.org/press/2001/09/ny-091201.htm>

http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/news/2001/us_09-2001.shtml

<http://www.fidh.org/communiq/2001/us1209a.htm>

<http://www.medecinsdumonde.org/>

Other AI statements

Australia: Amnesty International welcomes court ruling on asylum-seekers. 11 September 2001 [ASA 12/007/2001].

Justice North ordered that 433 asylum-seekers, now on board the Australian vessel HMAS Manoorra, be brought back to Australia, if they still wish to claim asylum there.

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/6E1D639E4652830280256AC4005790E5?OpenDocument>

Turkey: Risk of reprisals against torture victims and human rights defenders. 10 September 2001 [EUR 44/063/2001].

Amnesty International is urging Turkish government authorities to immediately return all patient-related documents containing information on torture victims, confiscated from the Diyarbakir office of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey.

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/A7459F01EBB1496980256AC3004840B8?OpenDocument>

World conference against racism ends: successes must not be overshadowed by disputes. 7 September 2001 [IOR 40/022/2001]. Despite serious problems and disputes which marred the event, the World Conference Against Racism

has achieved some important successes:

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/7558CF90E3B67EF580256AC00043C60F?OpenDocument>

This is a small selection of Amnesty International reports and statements. For a comprehensive overview, please check Amnesty International's website: <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Further news

Brazil : AIDS care program to be exported? Doctors Without Borders is reported to be working with Brazil to export the country's successful anti-AIDS program and its locally made AIDS drugs to other developing countries. See: http://us.news2.yimg.com/f/42/31/7m/dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20010912/wl/aids_brazil_dc_1.html

China - executions. China is in the midst of its third great wave of executions in the last quarter century reports the *New York Times* (9 September). See: <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/09/09/international/asia/09CHIN.html?searchpv=past7days> (registration required)

CPT - new reports. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) has recently published its 11th general report on activities in 2000 (<http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20010906en.htm>, 6 September). It has also published reports on three visits to Greece. Click here for the press release - <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/press/20010913en.htm> (13 September) and here for the CPT report (<http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/reports/inf2001-18en2.htm>) and the government responses (<http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/reports/inf2001-19en.htm>)

Israel/Occupied Territories/PA - interview with Gaza psychiatrist. *Newsweek* interviewed psychiatrist Eyad Sarraj, who runs the Gaza Community Mental Health Program clinic in Gaza (30 August). <http://www.msnbc.com/news/624381.asp>

Japan - psychiatric care reviewed. Japan has the highest number of hospital patients with mental illness in the world, reports the *Japan Times* (12, 13 September). See: <http://www.japantimes.com/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn20010912b8.htm> and <http://www.japantimes.com/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn20010913b3.htm>

MSF to temporarily reduce activities in Afghanistan. Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) is reducing the number of international volunteers in Afghanistan following the attack on the World Trade Center in New York, USA on 11 September. See: <http://www.msf.org/countries/page.cfm?articleid=6B6FB489-3517-4673-960EBD055C60A750>

Syria - human rights activists including two physicians detained. The *BBC* reported on 10 September that five human rights activists have been detained. Among them are Walid al-Bunni and Kamal Labwani, two physicians, who reportedly took part in the organization of a political seminar on 6 September. http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/middle_east/newsid_1534000/1534775.stm
Also see an Amnesty International press release: <http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/news.nsf/WebAll/F560ED2E094210AE80256ABD00394FDD?OpenDocument>

UK - tasers supported. A West Midlands medical consultant is supporting a call by police to introduce electric taser guns, reported the *BBC* (11 September): http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/health/newsid_1537000/1537484.stm

USA - suicide attacks in New York, Washington DC, Pennsylvania. There has been huge press coverage of the appalling attacks in northeastern USA using hijacked planes on 11 September. See for example: *New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com/>), *Washington Post* (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>), *Economist* (<http://www.economist.com/>); the following article from the *Boston Globe* discusses medical aspects of the disaster: http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/257/nation/Medical_teams_knew_the_worst_early+.shtml

USA - arrest of Cuban over electro-shock procedures. The *Miami Herald* reported on the arrest of Eriberto Mederos who allegedly tortured political prisoners with electroshock equipment at a Cuban psychiatric hospital in the 1970s. Mederos said the treatment was ordered by doctors as a medical procedure (5 September). <http://www.miami.com/herald/content/news/local/dade/digdocs/008106.htm>

USA - UK to intervene in US death penalty cases. The UK government plans to intervene in the cases of two UK nationals currently on death row in the USA. ('Britain to challenge Death Row cases in US', *Independent* [London], 11 September). <http://news.independent.co.uk/world/americas/story.jsp?story=93212>

USA - decrease in executions. The *Washington Post* reported that the number of executions up until now have decreased by 27 per cent compared to last year at this time (6 September). <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A48702-2001Sep5.html>

USA - APA adopts moratorium resolution. During a recent convention the American Psychological Association (San Francisco, Aug. 24-28) adopted a resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty, resolving "that the American Psychological Association: Calls upon each jurisdiction in the United States that imposes capital punishment not to carry out the death penalty until the jurisdiction implements policies and procedures that can be shown through psychological and other social science research to ameliorate the deficiencies identified above [referring to points earlier in the resolution". For further details contact the APA: <mailto:ppo@apa.org>.

Conferences

The **Centre for the Study of Global Ethics** and the **British Medical Association** are organising a human rights lecture on the death penalty; presentations will be given by Bud Welch and Prof Vivienne Nathanson entitled, respectively 'Victims' Families for Reconciliation' and 'The Death Penalty: From Rage to Reconciliation'. Date: Tuesday 6 November 2001, 17:30hrs. Place: The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH.

Vacancies

For vacancies at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International in the UK, please click here: <http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/HRPJobs.nsf!OpenDatabase>

Doctors of the World USA seeks a paid intern to provide assistance to the Human Rights Clinic, based in New York, from 27 September 2001 - 1 January 2002 for preferably 30 hours/week. For information, write to: tecosko@dowusa.org or fax: +1 (212) 226 7026.

Publications

APA. Opinions of the Ethics Committee on the Principles of Medical Ethics: With Annotations Especially Applicable to Psychiatry (2001 Edition). 82 pp, paper, ISBN 0-89042-144-7, Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Association, 2001.

APA web-site is: <http://www.psych.org/>

Council of Europe. *Human rights information bulletin* September 2001. <http://www.dhdirhr.coe.int/Bulletin/eng/presenting.htm>

Jonson T. The WMA must take action against capital punishment [article in Swedish]. *Lakartidningen* 2001, 25 July;98:3356.

Kang Zhengguo. Arrested in China. *New York Review of Books*, 20 September 2001. <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/14501>

Krieken P [ed]. *Health, Migration and Return - A Handbook for a Multidisciplinary Approach* (the Hague, 2001).

Loff B, Black J. Australia refuses entry to asylum seekers. *Lancet* 2001;358:9284 (8 September). <http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol358/iss9284/full/lan.358.9284.news.17622.1>

Mamou J. Soldier boys and girls. *Le Monde Diplomatique*. September 2001.

<http://www.en.monde-diplomatique.fr/2001/09/13soldiers> (The author is a paediatrician, and honorary president of Médecins du Monde.)

Mezey G, Robbins I. Usefulness and validity of posttraumatic stress disorder as a psychiatric category. *BMJ* 2001;323:561-563 (8 September). <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7312/561>

Modvig J, Amris K. Diagnostic imaging in the investigation of torture victims [article in Danish]. *Ugeskr Laeger* 2001 Aug 13;163(33):4328-4332.

Port CL, Engdahl B, Frazier P. A longitudinal and retrospective study of PTSD among older prisoners of war. *Am J Psychiatry* 2001 Sep;158(9):1474-1479. See *PubMed* for an abstract:
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=11532734&dopt=Abstract

Sidley P. Drug firm is to supply AIDS drug free in South Africa. *BMJ* 2001;323:472 (1 September)
<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7311/472/c>

Swan N. Concerns grows over health of Australia's refugee population. *BMJ* 2001;323:529 (8 September).
<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7312/529>

Reviews

Upshur R E G. Far from the best of all possible worlds. *CMAJ* 2001;165(5):615-8 Click here for this review of the BMA's recent publication *The medical profession and human rights: handbook for a changing agenda*
<http://www.cma.ca/cmaj/vol-165/issue-5/0615.asp>

Click here -- <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7313/638/a> -- for a review of *Ward Ethics: Dilemmas for Medical Students and Doctors in Training* (Eds: Thomasine K Kushner, David C Thomasma), Cambridge University Press, £18.95, pp 265

Click here -- <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/0,,217-2001300034,00.html> -- for an interview with Gitta Sereny, author of *The German Trauma: Experiences and Reflections 1938-2001*, Penguin 2001.

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