

---

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**  
**NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

AI Bulletin Vol.10 No.12, 15 June 2007  
AI Index: ACT 84/012/2007

---

Contents of external sites are not the responsibility of Amnesty International. Links are provided for the convenience of readers. Some sites may require registration or only be available to subscribers.

**Contents:**

**Amnesty International reports & statements**

**News articles:**

*Asylum seekers/ IDPs / Migrants /Refugees*

*Children*

*Death Penalty*

*Elder Abuse*

*Health Services-*

*HIV/AIDS*

*Mental Health*

*Research*

*Sexual and Reproductive Health*

*Violence against Women*

**Events**

**Publications**

**Amnesty International reports & statements:**

See the following recent AI reports and press statements [dates given in day/month/year format]. These and other press releases and reports are accessible at:

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/eng-recent/index>

12/06/07 [Greece: Uphold the rights of women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation](#) EUR 25/002/2007

12/06/07 [Greece: Bringing traffickers to justice must not be at the expense of the rights of their victims](#) EUR 25/006/2007

11/06/2007 [Iran: Authorities maintain pressure on women's rights activists as anniversary of demonstration approaches](#) MDE 13/071/2007

11/06/2007 [Truth, justice and reparation. Establishing an effective truth commission](#) POL 30/009/2007

11/06/2007 [Kenya: Police operations against Mungiki must comply with Kenya's obligations under international human rights law](#) AFR 32/008/2007

07/06/2007 [Georgia: Amnesty International and non-governmental organizations of Georgia urge the government to promptly approve Action Plan on Domestic Violence](#) EUR 56/006/2007

07/06/2007 [USA: Off the Record. U.S. Responsibility for Enforced Disappearances in the "War on Terror"](#) 51/093/2007

07/06/2007 [Leading human rights groups name 39 CIA "disappeared" detainees Three groups file lawsuit seeking information about "ghost" detention](#) AMR 51/101/2007

06/06/2007 [Sudan: Amnesty International adopts powerful technology in campaign to protect civilians in Darfur](#) AFR 54/025/2007

05/06/2007 [EU: confront Japan on death penalty](#) ASA 22/006/2007

05/06/2007 [Lebanon: Fears for thousands of refugees caught up in intense fighting](#) MDE 18/005/2007

05/06/2007 [Report of Amnesty International's observer Jumana Musa on the arraignment proceedings before military commissions at Guantánamo on 4 June 2007 in the case of Omar Khadr and Salim Ahmed Hamdan.](#) AMR 51/098/2007

04/06/2007 [Israel/OPT: Forty years of occupation -- no security without basic rights](#) MDE 15/038/2007

04/06/2007 [Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories: Enduring occupation. Palestinians under siege in the West Bank](#) MDE 15/033/2007

01/06/2007 [The Wire, June 2007, Vol. 37, No. 5](#) NWS 21/005/2007

01/06/2007 [Israel/OPT: Civilians in the line of fire in Gaza and Sderot](#) MDE 15/040/2007

01/06/2007 [The trial of Charles Taylor must be made relevant to Sierra Leoneans and Liberians](#) AFR 34/005/2007  
 01/06/2007 [China: Tiananmen anniversary - looking forward means facing up to the past](#) ASA 17/033/2007  
 31/05/2007 [Kosovo \(Serbia\): No Forcible Return of Minorities to Kosovo](#) EUR 70/004/2007  
 31/05/2007 [Albania: Fifteen in Korça threatened with eviction and homelessness](#) EUR 11/001/2007  
 30/05/2007 [Kenya: Nowhere to go: Forced Evictions in Mau Forest - Briefing Paper, May 2007](#) AFR 32/006/2007  
 29/05/2007 [Nigeria: Are human rights on the political agenda?](#) AFR 44/013/2007  
 28/05/2007 [Peru: Denial of the right to Maternal and Child Health: Summary of Amnesty International's findings and recommendations](#) AMR 46/007/2007  
 28/05/2007 [Peru: Denial of the right to Maternal and Child Health: This is the law and you can tell whoever you like](#) AMR 46/005/2007  
 28/05/2007 [Peru: Denial of the right to Maternal and Child Health: "Why have children when you're so poor?"](#) AMR 46/004/2007  
 28/05/2007 [Peru: Denial of the right to Maternal and Child Health: Illegal charges for health services](#) AMR 46/006/2007  
 28/05/2007 [EU - ASEM: Involve Asian Nations in Efforts to Abolish the Death Penalty](#) IOR 30/011/2007  
 28/05/2007 [Mexico: Laws without justice: Appeal cases](#) AMR 41/015/2007

## News articles:

### Asylum seekers/ IDPs/ Migrants / Refugees:

**Chad:** The UN Office for Humanitarian Affairs refers to a lack of funds for the inadequate number of latrines available in camps in the Southern part of Eastern Chad, where over 100,000 displaced people are currently living. *Irin* (1 June):  
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72508>

**Thailand:** Aid workers have discovered the first cases of "extensively drug resistant" (XDR) TB among migrants from Myanmar. According to Reuters, ad hoc self-treatment is often the norm amongst refugees and desperately poor migrant workers, and this can lead to the mutation of the TB bacterium, and the building up of immunity. *Reuters* (11 June):  
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUKBKK21768.CH.242020070611>

### Children:

**Australia.** A Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse was established in the Northern Territory, Australia on 8 August 2006. It has now reported and the press release, summary and full report are available at:  
<http://www.nt.gov.au/dcm/inquirysaac/>.

### Death Penalty:

**Iran:** Un Iranien gé de 20 ans, et identifié par son seul prénom Mohammad, a été pendu à Shiraz, dans le sud, pour un crime commis lorsqu'il était mineur, rapporte samedi la presse iranienne. Cette pendaison porte à au moins 88 le nombre de personnes exécutées en Iran depuis le début de l'année. *AFP* (9 June):  
[http://www.csdhi.org/m/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=791&Itemid=69](http://www.csdhi.org/m/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=791&Itemid=69)

**Libya:** According to Al Jazeera, following a meeting with a high-level EU mission, Saif al-Islam, the son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, indicated that the case against foreign health professionals currently under sentence of death may be near a conclusion after a 'positive' European initiative.  
*Al Jazeera* (11 June) and *Independent* (12 June):  
<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/0F11E2D2-6E6F-4875-9862-8875921B7722.htm?FRAMELESS=true&NRNODEGUID=%7b0F11E2D2-6E6F-4875-9862-8875921B7722%7d>  
<http://news.independent.co.uk/europe/article2646276.ece>

## **Elder Abuse:**

**UK.** The first thorough survey of elder abuse in Britain found 4% of people over 66 are victims of repeated neglect, financial exploitation or physical, psychological or sexual abuse reports the *Guardian* (15 June):  
[http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk\\_news/story/0,,2103700,00.html](http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,2103700,00.html)

## **Health Services:**

**Central African Republic:** NGOs in Paoua, north-western Central African Republic have suspended operations following the killing of a Médecins Sans Frontières volunteer. In May, the Italian charity, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) decided to suspend activities in the nearby town of Bozoum after the abduction of two health workers.  
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72682>

**USA:** Black people were far less likely than whites to get specialized procedures after a heart attack and were more likely to die within a year, according to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, showing persistent racial disparities in U.S. medical care.  
[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/heart\\_blacks\\_dc;\\_ylt=AkBZqig7Yi35KTIHrHBVnhGs0NUJ](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/heart_blacks_dc;_ylt=AkBZqig7Yi35KTIHrHBVnhGs0NUJ)

**Zimbabwe:** The International Committee of the Red Cross has likened the state of health provision in Zimbabwe to that of a war zone. The Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights is quoted as saying that in their view health services had now “collapsed”. *Irin* (8 June):  
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72637>

## **HIV/AIDS:**

**China:** The AIDS campaigner Zang Jinyan has had her passport retained by officials, and was prevented from leaving the country to attend a human rights meeting in Switzerland, according to her own account. This follows Zang Jinyan’s earlier detention by Chinese authorities in May, along with her husband and fellow AIDS campaigner Hu Jia. *The New York Sun* (12 June): <http://www.nysun.com/article/56321>

**India:** Five HIV positive children were refused entry to their school for the second time, after protests from the parents of other children attending the school. The children are being given private tuition. *Reuters* (6 June):  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSDEL17111120070606>

**USA:** Poor management of money provided for AIDS care has disrupted the supply of drugs to AIDS patients in Puerto Rico, according to Federal officials and many local doctors. *The New York Times* (5 June):  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/05/health/05puerto.html?\\_r=2&hp=&adxnln=1&oref=slogin&adxnlnx=1181047274-ORMYBtlvA4yVSAaCpQJfVg&pagewanted=all&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/05/health/05puerto.html?_r=2&hp=&adxnln=1&oref=slogin&adxnlnx=1181047274-ORMYBtlvA4yVSAaCpQJfVg&pagewanted=all&oref=slogin)

## **Mental Health:**

**Japan:** The Japanese government has announced it will support measures to bring down the suicide rate, which is the second highest in the industrialised world after Russia. The suicide of the Japanese agriculture minister a few weeks ago focused attention on the pressures that drive many in Japan to take their own life. *Taipei Times* (9 June):  
<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/world/archives/2007/06/09/2003364478>

## Research:

**Nigeria:** Nigeria has filed charges against the pharmaceutical company Pfizer, accusing it of carrying out improper trials for an anti-meningitis drug. *BBC* (5 June): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6719141.stm>

## Sexual and Reproductive Health:

**India:** Health officials in western India have started distributing condoms free outside pornographic cinemas. Screening pornography is illegal in India but officials in Gujarat see the campaign as a way to encourage safe sex amongst groups such as migrant workers. *Reuters* (6 June):

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSDEL724120070606>

**Mozambique:** Mozambique is set to end its blanket ban on abortion after the government acknowledged that current legislation was endangering the lives of women in one of Africa's most impoverished nations, according to AFP. *AFP* (10 June):

<http://www.pushjournal.org/NewsCent/news/article.cfm?eid=amnestyhhr&article=86804>

**Sudan:** Southern Sudan has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the world at 2,030 per 100,000 births, according to UN Population Fund figures. *Reuters* (6 June):

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSL0666311520070606?pageNumber=1>

**Uruguay:** Campaigners have launched an internet petition to change Uruguay's strict abortion laws, which allow termination only in cases of danger to the mother's life, rape, or extreme economic hardship. *Reuters* (11 June):

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N11429054.htm>

Más de tres mil uruguayos impulsaban este sábado una campaña en internet en protesta por el procesamiento de una joven que se realizó un aborto, en momentos en que un proyecto de ley que despenaliza el procedimiento espera para ser discutido en el Congreso.

<http://www.eluniverso.com/2007/06/09/0001/1064/281AD3A7C6424078B6F70DACA2994D5E.aspx>

**USA:** Democrats in Congress aim to loosen restrictions that deny aid to groups abroad that provide family planning services, including advice on abortions. *Reuters* (6 June):

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSN0629775320070606?pageNumber=1>

## Violence Against Women:

**Eritrea.** Eritrea banned female genital mutilation (FGM) in April 2007, and the government has warned anyone taking part in or promoting the practice faces a fine of several hundred dollars or up to 10 years in jail. *Reuters* (11 June):

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSL1612364520070611>

## Events:

**20 June:** World Refugee Day (UNHCR)

**26 June:** [International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking](#) and International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (UN)

**01 July:** The deadline for applications for "Course 8E07: Introduction to Human Rights Education" (Human Rights Education Associates) has been extended to 1<sup>st</sup> July. The course runs from 12<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007. For more information see website.

<http://www.hrea.org/courses/index.html>

**Publications:**

Attaran, A. 'A tragically naïve Canadian law on a tragically neglected global health', *CMAJ*, 5 June.

<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/176/12/1726>

BMA press release, 'Prison healthcare under strain as overcrowding crisis worsens', 8 June

<http://www.bma.org.uk/pressrel.nsf/wlu/SGOY-73XFWY?OpenDocument&vw=wfmms>

Culbert, H. et al, 'HIV treatment in a conflict setting: outcomes and experiences from Bukavu, DRC', *PLoS Medicine*, 29 May

<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0040129>

Simms, C. 'The World Bank and sub-Saharan Africa's HIV / AIDS crisis'. *CMAJ* June 2007

<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/176/12/1728>

=====

This newsletter may be freely distributed. For a free subscription or to unsubscribe please write to: [Health@amnesty.org](mailto:Health@amnesty.org)

-----

Health and Human Rights Team

Amnesty International - International Secretariat

Tel: +44 20 7413 5522

Fax: +44 20 7956 1157

AI web-site: <http://www.amnesty.org/>

AI Health Professional web-site: <http://www.amnesty.org/health>