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Amnesty International reports & statements

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

17/06/2004 [Afghanistan: Spiralling lawlessness highlights need for promised international aid](#) ASA 11/010/2004
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15/06/2004 [Myanmar: Sports journalist Zaw Thet Htwe sentenced to three years in prison](#) ASA 16/006/2004
14/06/2004 [Viet Nam: Early release of cyber-dissident Le Chi Quang](#) ASA 41/007/2004
11/06/2004 [Spain: Window of opportunity for a fresh start on human rights](#) EUR 41/007/2004
10/06/2004 [Belarus: No Freedom of Expression](#) EUR 49/013/2004
10/06/2004 [Jamaica: Amnesty International mourns loss of leading human rights defender](#) AMR 38/010/2004
10/06/2004 [Joint press statement on Turkey](#) EUR 44/028/2004
10/06/2004 [Turkey: Released prisoners of conscience should face no further trial](#) EUR 44/029/2004
09/06/2004 [Mexico: Amnesty International delegation visits Mexico](#) AMR 41/024/2004

09/06/2004 [Rwanda: Government slams door on political life and civil society](#) AFR
47/012/2004

08/06/2004 [Sudan: Incommunicado detentions, unfair trials, torture and ill-treatment - the hidden side of the Darfur conflict](#) AFR 54/064/2004

These and other links to news and reports can be found at:
<http://web.amnesty.org/news/engindex>

Death penalty

Iraq - executions may resume. Iraq will restore the death penalty after the return of sovereignty later this month, in a measure that could affect ousted leader Saddam Hussein, Iraqi justice minister Malik Dohan al-Hassan told AFP. "The death penalty is suspended in Iraq but with the return of sovereignty, nothing obliges to maintain this suspension. We want to reinstitute it for very specific cases," he said. The death penalty was suspended in Iraq April 2003. [no link]

USA. A *New York Times* article (10 June) discusses the ethics of medical participation in the death penalty. An abstract of "Should Doctors Help With Executions? No Easy Ethical Answer" is available at
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/10/national/10death.html?ex=1087704000&en=3b89c8ff4f11db56&ei=5070&8bl>. Correspondence in reaction to the article can be found at:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/14/opinion/L14DOCS.html>

USA - DP. The AMA House of Delegates, meeting in Chicago, 12-16 June, rejected a call for a stronger position on lethal injection but adopted resolution 203 (Model State Execution Statutes to Exclude Health Professionals) which, among other things called on the AMA to "advise other state medical societies to review their state execution statutes to ensure that professionally unethical involvement in state executions is not required or shielded from professional peer review". Text available in RTF format at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/meetings/public/annual04/203a04.rtf>

Three new items have been added to DPIC's Web site, including a summary of a new report from The Sentencing Project, the complete results of a recent North Carolina poll, and an updated "Special Resources from DPIC" web page: (11 June)
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1026&scid=64>

HIV/AIDS

China -- AIDS prisons. AFP reports that the Chinese authorities have approved special AIDS jails to gather together prisoners who are HIV positive. *Herald Sun* (6 June).
http://www.heraldsun.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5478,9763920%255E1702,00.html

Ghana. US policy on reproductive health is having a negative impact on anti-AIDS action in Ghana, writes Barbara Crossette. *Los Angeles Times* (10 June)
<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-crossette10jun10,0,4440732.story?coll=la-news-comment-opinions>

Uganda. The *Lancet* (20 June) reports that Uganda has started distributing anti-retrovirals to those who meet the criteria for them.
<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol363/iss9426/full/llan.363.9426.news.29990.1>

Human Rights

Afghanistan -- MSF deaths. Five MSF workers have been killed in attack in Afghanistan. See "MSF condemns fatal attack on aid workers"
<http://www.msf.org/countries/page.cfm?articleid=1203B4E6-C01E-4B17-A7C4D57859A7960C>. See also the *Lancet* (12 June)
<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol363/iss9425/full/llan.363.9425.news.29895.1>

Canada - intersex. People not falling neatly into the male/female schema are frequently victims of prejudice and discrimination reports the *Mail and Globe* (12 June):
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20040612/COVER12/TPComment/TopStories>

Canada. New male circumcision policy in British Columbia. College of Physicians and Surgeons. Policy Manual June. <http://www.cpsbc.bc.ca/policymanual/c/c13.htm>

China. Chinese authorities should immediately release Dr. Jiang Yanyong, a government critic who exposed the government's cover-up of last year's SARS epidemic. Human Rights Watch 10 June. <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/06/10/china8794.htm>

Egypt. Egyptian Islamists announced Monday the establishment of the country's first Islamist human rights center amid heightening tensions between them and the state. *Middle East Online* (16 June) <http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/egypt/?id=10304>

Japan - trafficking. The Japanese government has said that it will boost efforts to combat human trafficking following the release of a US report that downgraded its assessment of Japan's efforts. *Japan Today*. (15 June):
<http://www.japantoday.com/e/?content=news&cat=2&id=302216>

USA - chemical weapons. Vietnam is seeking legal redress in US courts for the use by the US Army of the toxic defoliant, Agent Orange, during the Vietnam War which ended in 1975. Professor Nguyen Trong Nhan, the former president of the Vietnamese Red Cross, denounced the US action as "a massive violation of human rights of the civilian population, and a weapon of mass destruction", according to a *BBC* report (14 June):
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/3798581.stm>

Organ trade

Guatemala -- alleged organ trade. Allegations of child organ trafficking can have unintended consequences. June Weinstock was beaten while in Guatemala 10 years ago at a time when there was an alleged trade in child organs to the USA -- a crowd assumed she was a trafficker and attacked her. No evidence of such a trade was ever confirmed. Ms Weinstock still bears the consequences of the attack. See: *Fairbanks Daily News Minder* (14 June)
<http://www.news-miner.com/Stories/0,1413,113-7244-2210532,00.html>

Prisoners

Iraq. According to press reports, military doctors and nurses who examined prisoners at Abu Ghraib treated swollen genitals, prescribed painkillers, stitched wounds, and recorded evidence of the abuses going on around them. Rather than putting a stop to torture, they tacitly abetted it, by patching up victims and staying silent, writes Professor Gregg Bloche. *New York Times* (10 June) <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/10/opinion/10BLOC.html>

Iraq. In the weeks since photographs of naked detainees set off the abuse scandal at Abu Ghraib, military officials have portrayed the sexual humiliation captured in the images as the isolated acts of a rogue night shift. But forced nudity of prisoners was pervasive in the military intelligence unit of Abu Ghraib, so much so that soldiers later said they had not seen it as abusive or out of the ordinary. *New York Times* (8 June)
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/08/international/middleeast/08NAKE.html>

Iraq. The torture and mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison was the predictable result of the Bush administration's decision to circumvent international law, Human Rights Watch said in a new report (9 June). See the press release: <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/06/09/iraq8785.htm>. The report (*The Road to Abu Ghraib*) is available at: <http://hrw.org/reports/2004/usa0604/>

Iraq. Four soldiers are to face a court martial charged with abusing prisoners in the first of what could be a series of prosecutions over the conduct of British troops in Iraq. *Guardian* (15 June). http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1239000,00.html

Israel/OT - prisoners. Physicians for Human Rights-Israel has petitioned the Israeli High Court for an end to the abuse of prisoners at the "Sharon" facility (8 June) See: http://www.phr.org.il/Phr/Pages/PhrArticle_Unit.asp?Cat=11&art=676

USA/Cuba. Military interrogators at the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have been given access to the medical records of individual prisoners, a breach of patient confidentiality that ethicists describe as a violation of international medical standards designed to protect captives from inhumane treatment. *Washington Post*. (10 June) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A29649-2004Jun9.html>

Refugees

UK - refugee doctors. The British Medical Association is concerned at the loss to the National Health Service (NHS) of the skills of hundreds of refugee doctors, reports the BBC (15 June): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3809769.stm>

Right to health

Peru. The UN Special rapporteur on right to health, Paul Hunt, visited Peru from 7 to 15 June. <http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/2CD6AC719E8E8257C1256EA9002EDCC2>

Saudi Arabia - 'gender correcting' surgery. The BBC reports (17 June) that five sisters in Saudi Arabia are to have "corrective surgery" to change them to men. The surgeon responsible says that the women are intersex and that the surgery is not a case of transsexual change of gender. See: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/3814041.stm

Sudan - Darfur. A delegation from Physicians for Human Rights has returned from the Chad-Sudan Border with reports of systematic attacks on Darfur civilians, and the conditions for aid delivery. See: http://www.phrusa.org/research/sudan/news_06112004.html
See also: 'Ten million people or more are in dire need of food and other assistance because aid workers cannot reach them, the UN's humanitarian chief has warned'. *BBC* (15 June) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/3807535.stm>

USA - adolescent sexual orientation. The American Academy of Pediatrics has published an update opinion on this issue. See: Frankowski BL, Committee on Adolescence. Sexual orientation and adolescents. *Pediatrics* 2004; 113: 1827-1832. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/113/6/1827>

Venezuela - Cuban doctors inside the barrios. The *Lancet* (5 June) reports on a debate about importing doctors to work in districts with no medical care. <http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol363/iss9424/full/llan.363.9424.news.29802.1>

WHO - cost of violence. Violence devastates lives and also imposes major economic costs on societies around the world, some of which spend more than 4% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on dealing with violence-related injuries. This and other findings are contained in a new report released 9 June by the World Health Organization (WHO) at the 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion from 6-9 June in Vienna, Austria. See the press release at <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=9312>; the report can be downloaded at: http://www.who.int/entity/violence_injury_prevention/publications/violence/en/economic_dimensions.pdf (0.4 Mb)

Torture

Iran. The Iranian government has intensified its campaign of torture, arbitrary arrests, and detentions against political critics, Human Rights Watch said in a new report (7 June) <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/06/07/iran8774.htm>

Turkey - CPT report. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture has published a new report on its visit to Turkey in September 2003. The report is available at: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/tur/2004-16-inf-eng.htm>. The Turkish government response is available here: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/tur/2004-17-inf-eng.htm>

USA - torture memo. A memo of 1 August 2002 from the US Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel said that torturing suspected al Qaeda members abroad "may be justified" and that international laws against torture "may be unconstitutional if applied to interrogation" conducted against suspected terrorists. The *Washington Post* has published the full text of the Aug. 2002 memo, online (14 June): <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/nation/documents/dojinterrogationmemo20020801.pdf>

Violence against women

Kenya -- FGM meeting. The US NGO, Equality Now, convened a meeting of former genital mutilators in Nairobi, 5-6 June: Equality Now (7 June) http://www.equalitynow.org/english/about/press_releases/fgmmtg_20040607_en.html

Mali -- FGM continues. A government national health survey in 2002 revealed that 91.6 percent of all women between the ages of 15 and 49 in Mali had suffered female genital mutilation, reports IrinNews.org. The practice continues. See the Irin News report (15 June): <http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=41684>

USA - FGM clinic. A clinic in Boston delivers services to immigrant women who have had their genitalia mutilated as part of a traditional practice. Women's eNews (17 June) See: <http://www.womensenews.com/article.cfm/dyn/aid/1862/context/archive>

Courses

London, UK. The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture is undertaking a training day on medico-legal report writing on Saturday 11 September 2004. Further information from Angela Kirk, Administrator, Regional Development Team, Medical Foundation Tel: +44 20 7697 7804 or akirk@torturecare.org.uk. The Foundation web-site is: <http://www.torturecare.org.uk>

Human rights education - online course. The Norwegian Medical Association has coordinated the development of an online ethics and human rights course for prison doctors for the World Medical Association. The course material can be accessed here: <http://lupin-nma.net/>. You can either register or view the course as a guest user without password. Navigation links are at the left side of the screen.

Vacancies

Denmark - Copenhagen. The Danish Red Cross is seeking a Head of IFRC Reference Centre for Psychological Support and a Psycho-social officer. Further information from Acting Head of Centre Janet Rodenburg, phone +45 3525 9359 or e-mail jar@drk.dk or <http://www1.drk.dk/sw1628.asp>. Application and CV in English should be forwarded to Majbrit Sunesen, Danish Red Cross, Blegdamsvej 27, 2100 Copenhagen Ø or by e-mail to mbs@drk.dk. More background information is available at: <http://www.redcross.dk/psp-referencecentre>

USA - Boston. Physicians for Human Rights is seeking a Director of Research to be responsible for all research and investigation activities within a Department currently comprising four professional staff in addition to the Director. Please send a cover letter, resume, writing sample, names of three professional references and salary history to Barbara Harris, Physicians for Human Rights, 100 Boylston Street, Suite 702, Boston, MA 02116, USA. E-mail resumes@phrusa.org.

UK - London. The University of London, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, is currently advertising for an 8 month sabbatical cover and another for a Graduate Teaching Assistant or half-time lectureship post. Further details can be found at <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/jobfiles/HU261.html> (sabbatical cover) <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/jobfiles/GE384.html> (half time post) or from Dr Nazila Ghanea, Senior Lecturer in International Law and Human Rights, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London 28 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5DS, UK; Tel +44 20 7862 8827; Fax +44 20 7862 8820; Email: nazila.ghanea-hercock@sas.ac.uk.

Publications

Medicine and health policy. Nigerian state promises to end polio vaccine boycott. *Lancet* 5 June

<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol363/iss9424/full/lan.363.9424.news.29795>.

Lancet health and human rights section

(http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol363/iss9424/full/lan.363.9424.talking_points.29803.2)

has articles on persecution of men who have sex with men in Egypt, health care of asylum seekers in the UK and abortion in Nepal.

Interview with Dr Inge Genefke, IRCT. *Lancet*

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol363/iss9424/full/lan.363.9424.dissecting_room.29775.1 (5 June)

Amnesty International. *Combating Torture: A Manual for Action*. Reviewed by Dr Derrick Silove (*Lancet*, 5 June):

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol363/iss9424/full/lan.363.9424.dissecting_room.29761.1

Chapple A, Ziebland S, McPherson A. Stigma, shame, and blame experienced by patients with lung cancer: qualitative study. *BMJ* 2004;328:1470;

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/328/7454/1470> [stigma of lung cancer - parallels with AIDS]

Danner M. The logic of torture. *New York Review of Books* (24 June)

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/17190>

George R. 'They don't see it as rape. They just see it as pleasure for them' . *Guardian* (5 June) [on gang rape in the UK]

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/weekend/story/0,3605,1230533,00.html>

Human Rights Quarterly Vol. 26, May 2004. For contents and abstracts see:

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_rights_quarterly/toc/hrq26.2.html

Peel M (ed.) *Recognising rape as torture: legal and therapeutic challenges*. London: MFCVT, 2004. Pp 241. <http://www.torturecare.org.uk/publications/reportRape.htm>. See the review by Sally Hargreaves (*Lancet*, 5 June):

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol363/iss9424/full/lan.363.9424.dissecting_room.29762.1

Ramonet I. Torture in a good cause. *Le Monde Diplomatique* June 2004,
<http://mondediplo.com/2004/06/01leader>
Senanayake S, Ferson MJ. Detention for tuberculosis: public health and the law. *Medical Journal of Australia* 2004; 180: 573-576.
http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/180_11_070604/sen10776_fm.html
Turner MA, et al. British military forensic psychiatry. *Med Sci Law*. 2004 Apr;44(2):107-15.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15176622

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