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Summary

UN Day in support of victims of torture

AI reports & statements: UN day for victims of torture / impunity in Zimbabwe

Further news: RACP's health and social policy regarding asylumseekers, Australia / CPT report on Moldova / sexual violence, DRC / tightening of asylum policies, Denmark / investigation of alleged IDF abuses by Village Voice reporters, Israel/OT / ruling on detention of asylumseekers, New Zealand / apartheid abuses by medical profession, South Africa / prison health care services, United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) / execution of mentally disabled is ruled unconstitutional, USA

Training: courses for human rights and advocacy organizations in southern Africa / human rights monitoring

Publications

****26 June: UN Day in support of victims of torture****

Saluting international day in support of torture victims, secretary-general says term of convention remain 'true and relevant' as ever. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

<http://www.unhchr.ch/huricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/162DCF46E166C9ADC1256BE300515E29>

Also see:

Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT): <http://www.apr.ch/europe/june26/26juin02.htm>

ICRC: <http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/5B7E4V>

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT): <http://www.irct.org/26june.htm>

Digital Freedom Network: <http://www.dfn.org/focus/intl/torturefactsheet.htm>

Amnesty International reports & statements

UN Day of Victims of Torture: Making the Convention against Torture a reality. Amnesty International (ACT 40/001/2002).

Fifteen years on from the entry into force of the UN Convention against Torture, torture and ill-treatment continue to be recorded in at least 111 countries throughout the world. The Convention remains the least ratified of the six existing international human rights treaties.

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/ACT400012002>

Zimbabwe: Impunity enables ever more human rights violations. 25 June (AFR 46/035/2002).

In a new report Amnesty International details how the Zimbabwean government has systematically ensured that those responsible for torture, abductions and political killings are never brought to justice.

<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/recent/AFR460352002>

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

Australia - RACP's health and social policy regarding asylumseekers. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) has called for the immediate release of children of asylumseekers from detention and a review of Australia's policy on detention (May 2002).

Press release: http://www.racp.edu.au/hpu/policy/asylumseekers/release_children.htm

List of associated organizations: <http://www.racp.edu.au/hpu/policy/asylumseekers/alliance.htm>

Submission to the Human Rights & Equal Opportunities Commission:

http://www.racp.edu.au/hpu/policy/asylumseekers/alliance_inquiry.pdf

Council of Europe - report on Moldova. The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) has published a report assessing the treatment of people held in police custody, in prisons and other places of detention in Moldova (26 June).

Press release: [http://press.coe.int/cp/2002/336a\(2002\).htm](http://press.coe.int/cp/2002/336a(2002).htm)

Report (in French): <http://www.cpt.coe.int/fr/rapports/inf2002-11fr.htm>

Democratic Republic of Congo - sexual violence. Human Rights Watch reported that forces on all sides in the Congo conflict have committed war crimes against women and girls. The organization interviewed a number of victims and witnesses who spoke of sexual violence in the Rwandan-occupied areas of eastern Congo. Medical services are virtually non-existent in eastern Congo, resulting in women neither receiving treatment for their injuries nor post-exposure treatment for HIV.

<http://www.hrw.org/press/2002/06/congo0620.htm>

Denmark - tightening of asylum policies. As in other European countries, Denmark is tightening restrictions on asylum seekers, the *New York Times* reported (20 June). Dr Bayati faced imprisonment in Iraq for political reasons, but, following his escape to Denmark, says he now feels he's imprisoned in Denmark.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/06/20/international/europe/20DENM.html>

Israel/OT - investigation of alleged IDF abuses. *Village Voice* reporters investigated a number of alleged abuses by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) (19 June).

<http://www.villagevoice.com/issues/0225/fahim.php>

Kenya - FGM. Girls empowered to oppose FGM are finding that they are rejected by their parents and communities, according to the *Daily Nation* (Nairobi, 27 June). See: "From the frying pan into the fire" (*Horizon* magazine).

<http://www.nationaudio.com/News/DailyNation/Supplements/horizon/current/story3.htm>

New Zealand - ruling on detention of asylumseekers. The *New Zealand Herald* reported that "a High Court judge has ruled that the Government's policy for detaining asylumseekers is unlawful" (28 June).

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=2049130>

South Africa - apartheid abuses by medical profession. The *Sunday Times* (16 June) reported on continuing exposure of human rights violations involving doctors during the apartheid period in South Africa. See:

<http://www.suntimes.co.za/2002/06/16/insight/in01.asp>

United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) - prison health care services. The Northern Ireland Prison Service has recently reported on a review of prison health care services. For details see:

<http://www.niprisonservice.gov.uk/healthreport.htm>. The review is available at:

http://www.niprisonservice.gov.uk/Health_review.htm

USA - security detainees. The Metropolitan Detention Centre has held hundreds of security detainees after 11 September. See: "Black Hole in Brooklyn: A Prison Where Detainees Disappear", *Village Voice*, 26 June:

<http://www.villagevoice.com/issues/0226/lee.php>

USA - execution of mentally disabled ruled unconstitutional. The Supreme Court ruled on 20 June that the execution of prisoners on death row who are suffering from severe learning difficulties is unconstitutional. See: *Boston Globe* (20 June): http://www.boston.com/news/daily/20/scotus_death_penalty.htm

New York Times (20 June): <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/06/20/national/20CND-DEAT.html>

Supreme Court ruling: <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/00-8452.ZO.html>

Lancet 2002; 359: 9325 (dated 29 June):

<http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol359/iss9325/full/llan.359.9325.news.21630.3>

In a second death penalty ruling, the Supreme Court has said that juries should determine death sentences rather than judges. At least 150 death sentences in 5 states will be overturned according to the *New York Times* (24 June).

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/06/25/national/25DEAT.html>

The Court decision, opinion and concurrent and dissenting opinions can be found at:

<http://laws.findlaw.com/us/000/01-488.html>.

A discussion of the implications of the ruling -- 'Fewer Death Sentences Likely if Juries Make Ultimate Decision, Experts Say' -- can be found at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/06/25/national/25STAT.html> (*New York Times*, 25 June).

Also see: "New Rulings Don't Fling Open Death Row Doors" *Washington Post*, 27 June:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A52175-2002Jun26.html>

The *LA Times* (28 June) examines the profiles of ten men with mental disabilities who are under sentence of death in Los Angeles County, USA. See: "Who should die?"

<http://www.laweekly.com/ink/02/32/features-catania.php>.

Training

The NGO Fahamu, in association with the Department for Continuing Education at the University of Oxford, will be offering courses specifically designed to meet the needs of human rights and advocacy organisations in southern Africa. Developed together with international and regional experts, seven courses will be run over the next 12 months. For details visit <http://www.fahamu.org.uk/rights/fahamu-adilishac.html> or write to Adv. Anil Naidoo at anil@fahamu.org.za

Human Rights Education Association (HREA) Distance Learning Course 4E: HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING, 23 September - 15 December 2002. Facilitators: Ben Majekodunmi and David Weissbrodt. The syllabus and further details can be found at: <http://www.hrea.org/courses/4E.html>. Application forms (in Word) can be downloaded at: <http://www.hrea.org/courses/application4E.doc>. Applications should be submitted by 23 August 2002. Successful applicants will be notified by 30 August 2002. Full tuition payment is due on 12 September 2002. (The course tuition fee is US\$ 485. Scholarships are available for applicants from Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America/Carribbean.) Inquiries about the course can be sent to applications@hrea.org.

Publications

Biological weapons and public health - recent publications

The *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* (June 2002), published a symposium on "bioterrorism":

<http://ipsapp003.lwwonline.com/ips/frames/static.asp?J=24&file=texts/tocv323n6%2Ehtm>. See in particular:

Bronze MS, Huycke MM, Machado LJ, Voskuhl GW, Greenfield RA. Viral agents as biological weapons and agents of bioterrorism. *Am J Med Sci* 2002 Jun;323(6):316-25.

Evans RG, Crutcher JM, Shadel B, Clements B, Bronze MS. Terrorism from a public health perspective. *Am J Med Sci* 2002 Jun;323(6):291-8.

Greenfield RA, Drevets DA, Machado LJ, Voskuhl GW, Cornea P, Bronze MS. Bacterial pathogens as biological weapons and agents of bioterrorism. *Am J Med Sci* 2002 Jun;323(6):299-315.

Greenfield RA, Brown BR, Hutchins JB, Iandolo JJ, Jackson R, Slater LN, Bronze MS. Microbiological, biological, and chemical weapons of warfare and terrorism. *Am J Med Sci* 2002 Jun;323(6):326-40.

See also:

Borio L, Inglesby T, Peters CJ, Schmaljohn AL, Hughes JM, Jahrling PB et al. Hemorrhagic fever viruses as biological weapons: medical and public health management. *JAMA* 2002 (8 May);287(18):2391-405.

Hamburg MA. Bioterrorism: responding to an emerging threat. *Trends Biotechnol* 2002 Jul;20(7):296-8.

Whitby M, Street AC, Ruff TA, Fenner F. Biological agents as weapons 1: smallpox and botulism. *Med J Aust* 2002 May 6;176(9):431-3. http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/176_09_060502/whi10039_fm.html

Whitby M, Ruff TA, Street AC, Fenner FJ. Biological agents as weapons 2: anthrax and plague. *Medical Journal of Australia* 2002 (17 June), 176 (12): 605-608. See:

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/176_12_170602/whi10040_fm.html (may not work with Netscape <6);

PDF version can be downloaded at: http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/176_12_170602/whi10040_fm.pdf

Further publications

Arehart-Treichel J. Prison psychiatry stressful, but also rewarding. *Psychiatric News*, American Psychiatric Association, June 21, 2002 Vol 37 no 12.

<http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/37/12/16>

Bollini P, Laporte J-D, Harding TW. HIV prevention in prisons. Do international guidelines matter? *European Journal of Public Health*, Volume 12, Issue 2, June 2002: pp. 83-89.

http://www3.oup.co.uk/eurpub/hdb/Volume_12/Issue_02/120083.sgm.abs.html

Ekblad S, Prochazka H, Roth G. Psychological impact of torture: a 3-month follow-up of mass-evacuated Kosovan adults in Sweden - Lessons learned for prevention. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica* Vol 106, Issue 412, p 30 June 2002.

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/servlet/useragent?func=synergy&synergyAction=showAbstract&doi=10.1034/j.1600-0447.106.s412.7.x>

Insanity and the death penalty. (Reprint of a BJP article from 1902). *British Journal of Psychiatry* 2002, 180: 553. <http://bjp.rcpsych.org/cgi/content/full/180/6/553> [only available to subscribers]

Larsen U, Okonofua FE. Female circumcision and obstetric complications. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet* 2002 Jun;77(3):255-65.

The paper is available for free download (in PDF format) at:

<http://www.womenshealth-elsevier.com/doc/journals/pdf/IJGO%2077%203%20Larsen%20and%20Okonofua.pdf>

Lykke J, Timilsena MN. Evidence of torture in the mid west region of Nepal. *Dan Med Bull* 2002 May;49(2): 159 - 62 [PubMed].

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=12064092&dopt=Abstract

Lyons D and Munro R. Dissent as a symptom: why China has questions to answer. *Br J Psychiatry* 2002 180: 551-552. <http://bjp.rcpsych.org/cgi/content/full/180/6/551-a> [subscribers only]

Monin L and Gallimore A. *The Devil's Gardens: a History of Landmines* (London: Pimlico) ISBN 0 7126 6859 4. For review see *BMJ* (29 June):

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/324/7353/1589>.

Sullivan P. Israel criticised after Palestinian MDs shot, killed by soldiers in West Bank. *CMAJ* 166 (13), 25 June 2002.

<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/166/13/1705>

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