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News articles:

Asylum seekers/ IDPs / Migrants / Refugees:

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Approximately 123 000 people from the Eastern province of North Kivu have been displaced, due to fighting between DRC Government forces (FARDC) and Rwandan rebels (FDLR). About 60 000 of those displaced since February have been receiving relief from humanitarian agencies, but those who left their lands during the first

week of May - some of whom are based in inaccessible areas - still have no access to relief. *IRIN* (8 May):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72021>

Pakistan: Two refugee camps in Balochistan, home to over 70 000 Afghan refugees, are to close this summer. Residents will be able to relocate to another camp where they would continue to receive basic health care and other assistance, but are being encouraged to return to their homeland. Most of the refugees, from Helmand and Kandahar in the Taliban stronghold of southern Afghanistan, cite violence and fear for their own safety as reasons why they do not wish to return. *ReutersAlertNet* (6 May):

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/e63e58711fd7b5d9ab99b0eeda48a658.htm>

Zimbabwe: Les mouvements migratoires illégaux, accentués par la dégradation de la situation économique au Zimbabwe, ont rendu de très nombreux Zimbabwéens vulnérables à différentes formes de dangers, y compris l'infection au VIH. Plus de 21 000 personnes sont parties vers l'Afrique du Sud rien qu'en janvier cette année. Dans un pays étranger, les migrants non répertoriés jouissent de « peu de droits légaux » et ont souvent peu ou pas d'accès à la santé. *IRIN* (15 mai):

<http://www.irinnews.org/ReportFrench.aspx?ReportId=72158>

Children:

Yemen: Hundreds of Yemeni children, representatives of UN agencies and ambassadors marched together in Sana'a to highlight child hunger in Yemen, as part of the global walk 'Fight Hunger: Walk the World'. Recent food price hikes have raised concerns that the problem of child hunger could get worse, in a country where, according to the World Food Programme, 46% of children are malnourished. *IRIN* (16 May):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72163>

Death Penalty:

USA: A bill is pending before the North Carolina legislature prohibiting the application of the death penalty in cases where defendants are considered too mentally ill to have understood the significance of their actions at the time of their crimes. North Carolina is one of at least three states considering such a proposal, whilst Connecticut is the only state to have such a law. *The News and Observer* (13 May): <http://www.newsobserver.com/102/story/573736.html>

Health services:

USA : La Asociación Nacional de Médicos Hispanos (NHMA) instó ayer al Congreso de EE.UU. a que financien más programas de salud en barrios urbanos y comunidades de bajos ingresos para acabar con la disparidad racial y étnica existente. *El Diario* (11 mayo) :

<http://www.eldiariony.com/noticias/detail.aspx?section=60&desc=Nacionales&id=1638672>

Zimbabwe: Nurses at Zimbabwe's major government hospitals are not reporting for work because they cannot afford transport costs due to low wages. Student nurses and supervisors are staffing the wards but are unable to cope with the numbers of patients requiring treatment. *Reuters* (8 May): <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L08605018.htm>

HIV/AIDS:

Argentina: Patricia Pérez, an activist from Argentina who was diagnosed HIV positive in 1986, has been nominated for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for her activism on behalf of women living with HIV. HIV and AIDS activists warn against the rising number of women with

HIV in Latin America, and of the stigma and discrimination many HIV positive women experience. *IPPF* (15 May):

<http://www.ippf.org/en/News/Intl+news/HIV+positive+women+activists+in+Latin+America+stand+tall.htm>

Brazil : For the first time, Brazil has bypassed the patent on an HIV drug provided by the pharmaceutical company Merck and intends to purchase a rival generic version from India at a cheaper price for its AIDS prevention programme. Merck resisted Brazil's call to sell the drug \$0.65 per pill, the price at which it is sold to Thailand. Whilst this initiative has been welcomed by health activists, members of the pharmaceutical industry warned that such a move could discourage research on diseases in the developing world. *The Financial Times* (5 May):

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/c7d3f1f4-fa78-11db-8bd0-000b5df10621.html>

Cameroun: The government of the Republic of Cameroun pledged that as of the 1st May, anti-retroviral drugs will be free of charge for all those living with HIV / AIDS. Previously free treatment and HIV screening tests were only available to key groups of the population such as pregnant women, children, tuberculosis patients and prisoners. *IOL* (20 April):

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=31&art_id=nw20070419220206925C978772

Mental Health:

USA: The medical and psychiatric community in Morris County, New Jersey, recently issued a "white paper" urging the state to address the problem of an increasing number of psychiatric patients being held in emergency room services as a result of state-wide downsizing of dedicated mental health hospital wards. *The Star-Ledger, New Jersey* (13 May):

<http://www.nj.com/starledger/stories/index.ssf?/base/news-7/1179030842309280.xml&coll=1&thispage=1>

Prisoners:

Democratic Republic of Congo: On a recent visit to the DRC, The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights criticised the unhealthy conditions in the country's prisons and stressed the need for reforms to improve the detention system in DRC to be accelerated. *Reuters* (17 May):

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/3dc41219bfded9132782f9a8bb91a9a2.htm>

Libya : A verdict on the defamation case involving five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctors sentenced to death for infecting hundreds of Libyan children with HIV, will be delivered on the 27 May. The six are accused of making false claims of torture and have pleaded not guilty to charges of slander. *BBC* (6 May)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6630337.stm>

Torture and other ill-treatment:

Iraq: A recent survey has shown that less than 55% of the US military would report a colleague for killing or wounding an innocent civilian. 44% of Marines and 41% of soldiers said that torture should be allowed to save the life of a soldier. *AP* (8 May):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,-6615510,00.html>

Violence Against Women:

Kenya: In the Rift Valley Province, where female genital cutting is still common, girls who have this practice performed on them are frequently married off at an early age leading to many dropping out of formal education. *The Nation* (9 May):

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200705081126.html>

India: A ban is to be put on allowing women under the age of 30 from emigrating to work as domestic help in the Gulf and parts of Africa and Southeast Asia, in a bid to curb sex trafficking. *AFP* (16 May):

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2007%5C05%5C16%5Cstory_16-5-2007_pg4_20

Uganda: On the back of calls by the Ugandan government and others for the release of women and children abducted by the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army), UNICEF are putting plans in place to address the immediate needs of the hostages, should they be freed. These include the provision of health services and psycho-social services. *IRIN* (9 May):

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/a08a28c1c879b4da6de68dbc5e02fa4d.htm>

Sexual and Reproductive Health:

A test is being sold on the internet that enables parents to check the sex of their unborn baby at just six weeks. The kit costs £189 and is 99% accurate. Concerns have been raised about the sex selection of children for non-medical reasons. *BBC* (5 May):

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/6623189.stm>

Australia: The Green Party has called on the government to lift a ban that prohibits aid money being used in developing countries to provide information on abortion. *The PUSH Journal* (16 May) Registration required.

<http://www.pushjournal.org/NewsCent/Default.cfm?eid=amnestyhhr&article=86610>

Ireland: A 17-year-old girl carrying a foetus that will not live more than three days outside the womb, has been given permission by the high court in Dublin to travel to Britain for a termination. The high court judge stated that there was no constitutional impediment which served to prevent the girl from travelling abroad to terminate her pregnancy. *The Guardian* (10 May):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,2076101,00.html?gusrc=rss&feed=1>

México: El cambio a la ley sobre el aborto en el DF no protege a un profesional de salud que actua segun el nuevo regimen, a posible sanction de las autoridades federales. *La Jornada* (11 mayo)

<http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2007/05/11/index.php?section=capital&article=034n1cap>

Somalia: In the middle of the violence in Mogadishu, a female gynaecologist is working with her daughter to provide free medical services to thousands of internally displaced Somalis, despite immense difficulties in accessing adequate medical supplies. *IRIN* (9 May):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72036>

Suède: Le gouvernement du Suède propose l'IVG pour toutes. Jusqu'à présent, seules les Suédoises et les femmes vivant sur le territoire national pouvaient y avoir recours, mais sous l'amendement à la loi suggérée, les patientes étrangères y auront également accès ; notamment celles du Pologne, où l'accès au avortement est toujours interdit. *La Libération* (8 mai) :

<http://www.liberation.fr/actualite/monde/252388.FR.php>

United Arab Emirates: The Ministry of Health is drafting a law to allow for therapeutic abortions in cases where fetuses suffer severe genetic disorders, such as thalassaemia. Abortion is currently only legal in UAE if required to save the life of the mother, in accordance with Islamic law. *Gulf News* (3 May):

<http://archive.gulfnews.com/articles/07/05/03/10122596.html>

Events:

- 24-27 May** : IV Foro Iberoamericano de ONG de Niñez y Adolescencia. Villarica, Chile.
<http://www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?id=13243>
- 31 May – 3 June**: The American Conference for the Treatment of HIV (ACTHIV). Dallas, Texas. <http://acthiv.org/default.asp?action=article&ID=1>
- 5-8 June**: 3rd South African AIDS Conference: Building consensus on Prevention, Treatment, and Care. Durban, South Africa. <http://www.sa-aidsconference.com/>
- 4-7 July**. International Women's Summit: Women's Leadership Making a Difference on HIV and AIDS. Nairobi, Kenya. (World YWCA in conjunction with the World Council Meeting).
http://www.worldywca.info/index.php/ywca/world_council_07/iws_women_s_summit

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- Horton, Richard. What's Wrong with Doctors. *New York Review of Books*. 31 May 2007 [reviewing *How Doctors Think* by Jerome Groopman. Houghton Mifflin, 307 pp.
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/20214>
- Kapp, Clare. 'South Africa Unveils New 5-Year HIV/AIDS Plan'. *The Lancet*. Vol. 369, Issue 9573, p1589-90. 12 May 2007.
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673607607272/fulltext>
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- 'A Toolkit on Positive Discipline. With Particular Emphasis on South and Central Asia'. *Save the Children*. May 2007.
<http://www.crin.org/docs/Toolkit%20on%20Positive%20Discipline%20final.pdf>
- 'Because I Am A Girl. The State of The World's Girls 2007'. *Plan International*. 16 May 2007.
<http://www.crin.org/docs/becauseiamagirl.pdf>
- 'Children: The Silenced Citizens. Effective Implementation of Canada's International Obligations With Respect To The Rights Of Children'. Final Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights. April 2007.
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/1/parlbus/commbus/senate/com-e/huma-e/rep-e/rep10apr07-e.pdf>
- 'Protecting the Health of Men who have Sex with Men' Editorial. *The Lancet*. Vol. 369, Issue 9573, p1576. 12 May 2007.
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673607607193/fulltext>
- 'State of the World's Mothers 2007. Saving the Lives of Children Under 5'. *Save The Children*. Eighth Annual Report, May 2007.
<http://www.savethechildren.org/publications/mothers/2007/SOWM-2007-final.pdf>
- 'Youth in Crisis: Coming of Age in the 21st Century'. *IRIN In-Depth*. February 2007
<http://www.irinnews.org/InDepthMain.aspx?InDepthId=28&ReportId=70140>

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