
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements:

See the following selected recent AI reports and press statements. These and other press releases and reports are accessible at the following link under 'News and Updates':

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

5 June: Myanmar: Cyclone survivors are at increased risk because of Myanmar government's actions

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/myanmar-cyclone-survivors-increased-risk-because-myanmar-government%E2%80%99s-ac>

24 June: Europe: European countries in state of denial over role in US rendition and secret detention

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/europe-must-face-facts-rendition-20080624>

20 June: Zimbabwe: 12 bodies have been found in various areas of Zimbabwe. Most of the victims appear to have been tortured to death by their abductors

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/twelve-bodies-found-zimbabwe-victims-tortured-20080620>

1 July: Lebanon: AI Secretary General Irene Khan has called on top Lebanese officials to reaffirm their commitment to human rights by taking concrete action, including the creation of a fully independent judicial system

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/lebanon-irene-khan-urges-action-human-rights-20080701>

Children:

Afghanistan: A new study shows that children in detention face various rights violations including maltreatment, lack of access to education and health services, according to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (1 July):

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/afghanistan_44679.html. The study is available at:
http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Juvenile_Detention_Study_engl.pdf

Death Penalty:

USA: The UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, Philip Alston, has criticised the US justice system concerning the death penalty. *UN News* (30 June):

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27222&Cr=execution&Cr1=>
A video clip is available at <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/detail/10016.html>

Health Services:

Afghanistan: A new UN reports shows the number of civilians dying in Afghanistan has risen by almost 62% in the first half of the year compared to 2007. *The Guardian* (30 June):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jun/30/afghanistan.unitednations>

Africa: A coalition of two hundred and five African and global organisations and networks have called on the Heads of State of the African Union (AU) to ensure the Implementation Plan of the AU Africa Health Strategy is urgently and adequately funded. *This Day* (1 July):

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200807020747.html>

HIV/AIDS:

World: A new report from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shows that HIV infections rates are rising around the globe. *The Guardian* (26 June):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jun/26/aids.health>. The full report is available at
<http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2008/summaries.asp>. A related video is available at
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LZ-HOwmPrA>

East Africa: A United Nations report suggests that sex between men and drug use fuelling Aids in region. *East African* (22 June): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200806231334.html>. The UN report, *Securing our Future: Report of the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa*, is available at <http://www.uneca.org/chga/Report/CHGAREport.pdf>

Malaria, TB and Other Diseases:

Kenya: The end of June marks the start of a new malaria season in East Africa. In recent years malaria has appeared in the highland areas where it was previously unheard of. *IPS* (26 June):

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=42976>

South Africa: The increasing number of South Africans contracting drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) demands a radically different approach than the current according to several presentations at the

first national TB conference, recently held in Durban. *Plus News* (3 July): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=79086>

Mental Health:

USA: According to a US army report, more than 100 personnel took their lives in 2007. Some 930 attempted suicide. See *Army suicide event report 2007* at: http://media.mcclatchydc.com/smedia/2008/05/29/19/Army-Suicide.source.prod_affiliate.91.pdf

Prisons:

UK: The detention of Zimbabweans in UK is no longer “justified”. *The Guardian* (24 June): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/jun/24/immigrationpolicy.zimbabwe>

USA: Guantanamo prisoner must be tried or freed, the federal appeals court in Washington DC has ruled. *New York Times* (24 June): http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/24/washington/23cnd-gitmo.html?_r=2&hp&oref=login&oref=slogin

Torture:

Mexico: A new police videos has emerged in Mexico raises concerns. *Los Angeles Times* (3 July): <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/laplaza/2008/07/mexico-human-ri.html>

Sierra Leone: A public meeting was held at Victoria Park in Freetown on 26 June, the UN Day in Support of the Victims of Torture. *Concorde Times* (Freetown) (30 June): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200806301664.html>

USA: Guantanamo Bay interrogators are using Chinese techniques of torture, including, sleep deprivation, prolonged constraint and exposure. *New York Times*, (2 July): http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/02/us/02detain.html?_r=2&hp=&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1215000136-4QJPeXQO1lyRW9UCOGxvGw

USA: The US-based journalist Christopher Hitchens has voluntarily undergone water boarding -- and concludes that it is torture. *Vanity Fair* (August): <http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2008/08/hitchens200808> ; and a video is available at: http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/video/2008/hitchens_video200808

Zimbabwe: Government supporters are bringing rape and torture to Harare suburbs. *Guardian*, (21 June): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jun/21/zimbabwe>

Violence against Women:

Sierra Leone: Sexual violence continues after the end of the civil conflicts. *IRIN* (20 June): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200806200910.html>

UK: The NGO, End Violence against Women, has published a new report *Realising Rights, Fulfilling Obligations: A Template for an Integrated Strategy on Violence Against Women for the UK*. Drawing on international examples of strategic approaches to the phenomenon of violence against women, the report suggests an integrated strategy to address the problem. See: http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/realising_rights.pdf

Conferences/Seminars/Courses/Funding:

Australia: From Margins to Mainstream: 5th World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and the Prevention of Mental and Behavioral Disorders, Melbourne, 10-12 September, 2008.
Please see: <http://www.margins2mainstream.com/registration.php>

Funding sources

The following link to a Directory of Grants and Fellowships in the Global Health Sciences provides information on funding possibilities in medical and health sciences. See:
http://www.fic.nih.gov/funding/directory_fellowships.htm

Publications:

The journal *Health and Human Rights* is now published on an open source basis -- it will be available free online to anyone interested. The journal can be accessed at:
<http://www.hhrjournal.org/index.php/hhr/index>

Alper T. Anesthetizing the Public Conscience: Lethal Injection and Animal Euthanasia. *Fordham Urban Law Review*, 2008. Available at:
<http://www.law.berkeley.edu/clinics/dpclinic/LethalInjection/LI/documents/articles/2008.anethetizing.pdf>

Editorial. HIV/AIDS: a global disaster, *Lancet* 5 July 2008
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608609666/fulltext>

Steering Committee of the Istanbul Summit. Organ trafficking and transplant tourism and commercialism: the Declaration of Istanbul. *Lancet* 5 July 2008:
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608609678/fulltext>

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