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Amnesty International Reports & Statements:

22 July: Gambia: AI is calling on the Gambian government to end its widespread use of arbitrary detentions and torture as activists worldwide stage protests against the authorities' appalling human rights record on 22 July, the country's national holiday known as "Freedom Day". <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/video-and-audio/gambia-global-day-action-2010-07-22>

19 July: Sudan: The Sudanese National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) is carrying out a campaign of arbitrary detentions, torture, and mental and physical intimidation against opponents and critics of the government, AI said in a new report launched. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/sudanese-security-service-carries-out-brutal-campaign-against-opponents-2010>

16 July: Uganda: AI has condemned the forced return of around 1,700 Rwandan asylum-seekers from two refugee settlements in Uganda in a joint operation between the governments of Uganda and Rwanda this week. The UNHCR reported that 25 people who were not among the deported were injured, some from police beatings. Among the injured were six pregnant women who were treated at a local hospital and then released. UNHCR also stated that the operations resulted in the deaths of two men who jumped off trucks en route to Rwanda. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/uganda-forcibly-returns-1700-rwandan-asylum-seekers-2010-07-16>

15 July: North Korea: A new report, *The crumbling state of health care in North Korea*, draws on interviews with North Koreans and health workers to paint a picture of barely-functioning hospitals void of medicines and epidemics brought on by malnutrition.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/north-koreas-crumbing-health-system-dire-need-aid-2010-07-14>

15 July: Kenya: AI has called on the Kenyan authorities to halt forced evictions in a Nairobi settlement that have left hundreds of families homeless and destitute. It is currently winter in Kenya and the evictions have left hundreds of people, mainly women and children, without shelter during the cold nights. Many are sleeping outdoors without blankets or warm clothes, or money to buy food or other essential items. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/hundreds-made-homeless-mass-forced-eviction-kenya-2010-07-15>

Children

Ireland: The border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland is an attractive gateway for child traffickers, according to an international report. The report by child protection organisation, Ecpat (which works to end child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purposes), said the Republic of Ireland was being used as a transit point for trafficking to the UK. Ecpat said Ireland was among the poorest performing EU states in combating sex trafficking of children. *BBC News* (8 July) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10561675>

UK: Clare Dyer reviews the challenges facing doctors acting as witnesses in child protection cases and some attempts to overcome them. *BMJ* 2010;341:c3672: http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/341/jul20_2/c3672

Food Security and Poverty

Nigeria: Relief workers in Niger say malnutrition rates for children under five have reached emergency levels. A deepening food crisis in the eastern Sahel threatens nearly half of Niger's 14 million people. *VOA News* (12 July) <http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/Hunger-Rates-for-Nigers-Children-Reach-Alarming-Levels-98235609.html>

Yemen: This link provides videos on the struggle against hunger and poverty in Yemen. *The Examiner* (18 July) <http://www.examiner.com/x-16819-Global-Hunger-Examiner~y2010m7d18-Video-The-hunger-and-poverty-crisis-in-Yemen>

Health Services

Uganda: The Government has launched village health teams and the new integrated community case management programme aimed at providing households with health services. A village health team comprises four to five people selected in a popular vote from a village. Each member would be in charge of 25 to 30 households. They are expected to visit homes, mobilise communities to utilise health services, promote health education and community-based management of common diseases. *The New Vision* (11 July) <http://allafrica.com/stories/201007120518.html>

Uzbekistan: International health and rights groups recently said that minority ethnic Uzbeks in southern Kyrgyzstan are being deprived of medical treatment and opportunities to seek refuge in neighbouring Uzbekistan. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said armed security forces posted near hospitals are deterring many from seeking much-needed medical and psychological assistance. MSF's local coordinator said that medical workers in hospitals have not threatened patients or turned them away, but that ethnic Uzbeks are routinely intimidated and threatened by other members of staff. *The Associated Press* (21 July) <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hbaJ4FKRgvRUjqmBoyfYUmpG0vJgD9H3F4R00>

HIV and AIDS

Africa: A four-country African study of mothers with HIV giving birth in 2007 and 2008 has shown that up to half of children exposed to HIV during pregnancy and childbirth did not

receive nevirapine to prevent HIV infection of the child at the time of delivery. Younger mothers and those who made fewer visits to the health facility before giving birth were significantly less likely to have taken a dose of nevirapine, and their infants were less likely to have received a dose of nevirapine after birth, according to results of a study published on 18 July in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* to coincide with the opening day of the Eighteenth International AIDS Conference in Vienna. *AidsMap* (18 July) <http://www.aidsmap.com/page/1447613/> (See publications for study.)

Africa: A new study reveals that cash incentives for teenagers in Africa to remain free of sexually transmitted infection could help cut the rate of HIV infection. *The Financial Times* (19 July) <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7e9acb5e-928a-11df-9142-00144feab49a.html>

Global: The UN hailed a breakthrough in the fight against AIDS with the release of figures showing that the prevalence of HIV has fallen among young people in 15 of the most affected countries. The news was even better in 12 of those countries, where HIV levels have decreased by 25% among 15- to 24-year-olds. This in response, UNAIDS believes, to dogged prevention campaigns warning of the dangers of HIV and AIDS and the need for people to change their sexual behaviour. *The Guardian* (13 July) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/13/hiv-rates-fall-young-people>

Middle East and North Africa: A UN conference in Dubai found many countries in the Middle East and North Africa fall “well short” of providing universal treatment, with sufferers often subjected to ill-treatment, social stigma and discrimination. The world body has now launched a “Global Commission on HIV and the Law” to assess whether legal structures criminalise certain types of high-risk behaviour and drive the disease underground. *The National* (15 July) <http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100715/FOREIGN/707159904/1002>

USA: The White House has unveiled a national HIV and AIDS strategy that aims to reduce the number of new cases by 25 percent in the next five years, officials said. Noting that the number of new infections in the United States has been static -- and that the number of people living with HIV is growing -- the new policy directs more resources toward four high-risk groups: African Americans, gay and bisexual men, Latinos, and substance abusers. *Washington Post* (14 July) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2010/07/13/AR2010071300958.html>

Malaria, TB and Other Diseases

Russia: Almost half of inmates in Russia's notorious prison system are ill, many infected with HIV or with tuberculosis, the country's Federal Prison Service said. Of Russia's 846,000 prisoners, the overwhelming majority of whom are men, just under half are ill, including 55,000 infected with HIV, highlighting the country's AIDS epidemic which Moscow blames on drug users who inject heroin. *Reuters* (14 July) <http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFTRE66D13M20100714>

Uganda: "Malaria remains one of the killer diseases in Uganda, claiming about 300 children every day" a malaria specialist at World Vision, Michael Mulwooza, told *Saturday Monitor*. "The key thing is to ensure that people have access to malaria control interventions, prevention and treatment and this involves the use of bed nets." According to the Health Ministry, although sleeping under a mosquito net is one of the most cost-effective ways to prevent malaria, only 42 per cent of the population in Uganda has access to a bed net... *The Monitor* (10 July) <http://allafrica.com/stories/201007120397.html>

Maternal and Infant Mortality

Africa: Africa's women are pushing their mostly male leaders to address the continent's failure in providing mother and child health care at the AU summit in Kampala. The maternal mortality rate in the continent is alarming. In the developed world, a woman dying during

childbirth is rare. By contrast, in Africa nearly a quarter of a million women a year die of pregnancy or childbirth related causes. Even worse, a recent study indicated progress in curbing maternal mortality almost every place in the world except sub-Saharan Africa. *VOA News* (21 July) <http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/health/AU-Summit-to-Address-Africas-Poor-Maternal-Care-Record-98935424.html>

Mental Health

Australia: A coalition of mental health advocates is calling for greater funding for services for children, as a national debate about support for people with mental illnesses continues. Convenor of the Children's Mental Health Coalition Professor Louise Newman said there should be a greater funding for early intervention programs for children aged up to 12 years. *Sydney Morning Herald* (22 July) <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/childrens-mental-health-being-ignored-20100722-10m3d.html>

Global: New research finds that a history of sexual abuse, regardless of the victim's gender or age when the abuse occurred, correlates strongly with a lifetime diagnosis of multiple psychiatric disorders. In the July issue of *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, researchers report that a history of sexual abuse is associated with suicide attempts, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorders, depression, and eating and sleep disorders. Additionally, associations between sexual abuse and depression, eating disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder were strengthened by a history of rape. *Medical News Today* (13 July) <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/194456.php> (see publications for article)

USA: The immigration experience can have a profound impact on the social and emotional development of children, especially those separated from their families or facing an uncertain future, a psychologist told a US congressional panel recently. *Medical News Today* (20 July) <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/195264.php>

Prisons and Detention Centres

Cambodia: Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called on international donors to pressure the government to close detention centres where sex workers are allegedly held against their will and abused. A report released yesterday by HRW drew from interviews with more than 90 sex workers, some of whom accused law enforcement officials of engaging in severe beatings and rape. *Phnom Penh Post* (21 July) <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2010072140608/National-news/hrw-exhorts-donors-to-see-policy-change.html> Report at: <http://www.hrw.org/node/91737>

UK: Campaigners and children's charities welcomed the announcement that the family wing of Yarl's Wood, an immigration detention centre, will be closing. Earlier this year, the children's commissioner, Sir Al Aynsley-Green, said children held at Yarl's Wood faced extremely distressing arrest and transportation procedures, as well as repeated periods of detention. A growing body of medical evidence has found that the detention of children in the asylum system is linked to serious physical and psychological harm. *The Guardian* (21 July) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jul/21/nick-clegg-child-detention-yarls-wood-closure>

USA: Across the United States, the juvenile justice system sends homosexual youth to prison in disproportionate numbers, fails to protect them from violence and discrimination while they're inside and to this day condones attempts to turn them straight, says *AlterNet* (19 July) <http://www.alternet.org/rights/147521/%22i%20was%20scared%20to%20sleep%3A%22%20lgbt%20youth%20face%20violence%20and%20isolation%20behind%20bars>

Refugees and Migrants

Haiti: NGOs, acting in place of a weak government, fend off disease and starvation in squalid camps. But even the most rudimentary services, in a stricken place like Port-au-Prince, have the perverse effect of sustaining the new, spontaneous slums that are stifling the city's recovery. *The Miami Herald* (13 July) http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/07/13/1727576_p2/in-haitis-tent-cities-a-return.html

Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Kenya: Obstetric fistulas are preventable and treatable but the problem plagues the lives of thousands of women in Kenya every year, leaving them incontinent and ostracized. *IRIN* (19 July) <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89886>

Uzbekistan: Human rights advocates and doctors say President Islam Karimov has ramped up a sterilization campaign he initiated in the late 1990s. In a decree issued in February, the Health Ministry ordered all medical facilities to "strengthen control over the medical examination of women of childbearing age" and said that "surgical contraception should be provided free of charge" to women who volunteer for the procedure. It did not specifically mandate sterilizations, but critics allege that doctors have come under direct pressure from the government to perform them. *Associated Press* (18 July) http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gDKvzDeiuK0kQeFqm4K_7wZ8xFmQD9H1485G3

Violence against Women

Argentina: A total of 126 women died as a result of domestic violence in Argentina during the first half of this year, 40 percent more than during the same period in 2009, according to statistics published by the organisation La Casa del Encuentro. *Sify News* (15 July 2010) <http://sify.com/news/domestic-violence-deaths-rise-40-percent-in-argentina-news-international-khpmkffdfdf.html>

Water and Sanitation

Cambodia: Government figures indicate up to 150,000 people living along the Mekong and Bassac rivers are consuming water from wells laced with arsenic, a poison that can cause skin and other cancers after prolonged exposure. *Phnom Penh Post* (21 July) <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2010072140615/National-news/arsenic-exposure-remains-hot-issue.html>

Iraq: The city of Fallujah, about 60km west of Baghdad, still has no functioning sewage system: waste pours onto the streets and seeps into drinking water supplies. Abdul-Sattar Kadhum al-Nawaf, director of Fallujah general hospital, said the sewage problem had taken its toll on residents' health. They were increasingly affected by diarrhoea, tuberculosis, typhoid and other communicable diseases. Al-Nawaf said that although he did not have specific numbers, 10-15 percent of patients at his hospital had water or sewage-related diseases. *IRIN* (14 July) <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89829>

Courses and Conferences

Family Violence Prevention Fund Webinar: Building Health Care Leadership: A Systems Advocacy Approach to Addressing Domestic Violence in the Health Care System.

29 July, 2010, 11am-12pm, Online

Learn the basic elements of working collaboratively with health care systems to establish an institutionalized response to domestic violence. Register: <http://endabuse.org/health/webinars>

The Second International Conference on Alcohol and HIV: Insights from Interventions

28-30 September 2010, New Delhi, India

The conference will highlight evaluated prevention programs, intervention research and national policies that address the links between alcohol and HIV, and that are focused on risk reduction. Abstract submission deadline: 31 July 2010. For more information, visit:

<http://www.alcoholhivconference2010.org/>

15th International Conference on Violence, Abuse & Trauma

12-15 September 2010, San Diego, USA.

This Conference has become a unique forum for people from all disciplines and philosophies to gather for in-depth exchange of current information on all facets of violence, abuse and

trauma prevention, intervention and research. Registration is now open. For more information, visit: <http://www.ivatcenters.org/>

Publications

Chen LP et al (10 May 2010) 'Sexual Abuse and Lifetime Diagnosis of Psychiatric Disorders: Systematic Review ...' *Mayo Clin Proc*, 85(7):618-629,, abstract at: <http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.com/content/85/7/618.abstract>

Dimopoulos A (2010), *Issues in Human Rights Protection of Intellectually Disabled Persons*, (London: Ashgate Publishing), Description and Table of contents available at: http://www.researchandmarkets.com/reportinfo.asp?report_id=1267959&t=d&cat_id=

Hassan Abolghasemi et al (July 2010), 'Childhood physical abnormalities following paternal exposure to sulfur mustard gas in Iran: a case-control study', *Conflict and Health*, 4 (13), <http://www.conflictandhealth.com/content/4/1/13/abstract>

Jankovic J et al (2010), 'Inequalities that hurt: demographic, socio-economic and health status inequalities in the utilization of health services in Serbia', *The European Journal of Public Health*, 20: 389-396.

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Kristjansson B et al (2009), 'School feeding for improving the physical and psychosocial health of disadvantaged students (Review)', The Cochrane Collaboration. Published by JohnWiley & Sons, Ltd. 2009, <http://bit.ly/bPJD8V>

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Stringer EM et al. (2010) 'Coverage of nevirapine-based services to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission in 4 African countries', *JAMA*, 304 (3): 293-302. <http://jama.ama-assn.org/>

United Nations Populations Fund (2010), 'Addressing Violence against Women and Girls in Sexual and Reproductive Health Services', Full document: <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/6233>

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