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Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements:

10 October: International: With Asia executing more people each year than any other part of the world, Amnesty International has called on World Day Against the Death Penalty, for India, South Korea and Taiwan to join the global trend and establish a moratorium on the death penalty immediately

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/asia-time-move-towards-abolition-death-penalty-20081010>

6 October: South Africa: South Korean police used excessive force in some instances against demonstrators protesting earlier this year against the government's decision to resume beef imports from the US, Amnesty International concluded in a report

<http://amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/south-korea-improve-policing-practices-during-protests-20081006>

3 October: Pakistan/Afghanistan: Tens of thousands of civilians require immediate international humanitarian assistance as a result of escalating fighting on both sides of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border since the beginning of August

<http://amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/pakistanafghanistan-thousands-displaced-civilians-border-area-have-right>

29 September: Egypt: A prominent Egyptian newspaper editor faces two months in prison for writing an article about the health of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/two-month-sentence-prominent-egyptian-editor-20080929>

29 September: Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed groups are still recruiting child soldiers to fight in the ongoing conflict in the province of North Kivu, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/armed-groups-government-forces-abuse-women-and-children-in-north-kivu-20080929>

Children:

Canada: Representatives from Canada and around the world held talks over the last two days to discuss the role the private sector plays through socially responsible initiatives to curb sexual exploitation of children. *UNICEF* (26 September): http://www.unicef.org/media/media_45759.html

Czech Republic: Human Rights Minister Džamila Stehlíková introduced on Tuesday the government's strategy for prevention of violence against children for the period 2008-2018. *Actualne* (1 October): <http://aktualne.centrum.cz/czechnews/clanek.phtml?id=618079>

Democratic Republic of Congo: The Lord's Resistance Army band in Uganda attacked a number of villages in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and abducted 90 children from their schools. *UNICEF* (1 October): http://www.unicef.org/media/media_45787.html

International: About one million children, many of them from minority or endangered groups, are imprisoned around the world, a UN agency said. *SIFI News* (2 October): <http://sify.com/news/fullstory.php?id=14769665>

South Africa: Poor health care at several Eastern Cape hospitals left more than 140 underprivileged children dead in one of South Africa's poorest districts within the first three months of this year. *Health-e* (2 October): <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032095>

UK: The Welsh Children's Commissioner has backed the latest attempt by a group of MPs to stop parents from smacking their children. *Wales Online* (8 October): <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/2008/10/08/children-s-commissioner-backs-mps-attempt-to-ban-smacking-91466-21988046/>

UK: There's still a long way to go before the care of children with a mental illness is at the level it should be, according to the children's commissioner Sir Al Aynsley-Green, despite the government insisting that an extra £1.2bn had improved mental health services. *The Public Service* (1 October): http://www.publicservice.co.uk/news_story.asp?id=7231

USA: The University of California Irvine will receive an additional \$14.5 million from the National Institutes of Health to expand the National Children's Study – the largest study of child development and health ever conducted in the U.S. *The Media Newswire* (6 October): http://media-newswire.com/release_1075350.html

Climate Change:

International: A meeting of experts convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Madrid agreed today to a research agenda to develop an evidence-based framework for action on the

human health implications of climate change. *WHO* (8 October): <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2008/pr36/en/index.html>

Death Penalty:

Europe: Friday marks the European day against the death penalty. As one of several events and debates to mark human rights this week, the European Parliament hosted an Italian film on the death penalty called "15 seconds" - the time an electric chair execution takes. *The European Parliament* (8 October): http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/015-38750-338-12-49-902-20081006ST038722-2008-03-12-2008/default_en.htm

Iran: Four prisoners were transferred from their ward to solitary confinement in preparation for execution in the central city of Isfahan. *NCR-Iran* (8 October): <http://ncr-iran.org/content/view/5675/1/>

Japan: Japan's death row inmates revealed to the world on Friday their personal stories of isolation and suffering, uninformed until the last minute when they will be taken to the gallows. *IPS* (10 October): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=44211>

Pakistan: As rights groups mark the Sixth World Day Against the Death Penalty with an appeal for an end to executions in Asia, Pakistan pulled one man back from the gallows and hinted that it will soon honour pledges to commute the sentences of over 7,000 death row inmates. *IPS* (10 October): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=44207>

Palestine: Two-thirds of residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip reject the use of capital punishment, according to a poll by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion. 66.9 per cent of respondents oppose the imposition of the death penalty in their territories. *Angus Reid (Global Monitor)* (3 October): http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/view/31911/palestinian_majority_opposes_death_penalty

USA: The United States Supreme Court has refused to reconsider its June ruling that banned the death penalty for people convicted of child rape. *The Ottawa Citizen* (2 October): <http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/story.html?id=55d2a44c-8b34-4924-b71a-a91d7ccbdd59>

Health Services:

Angola: The Angola's new government is promising better health facilities at both primary and secondary care levels, as well as to reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS over the next four years. *IRIN News* (01 October): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80693>

International: Using a fan while an infant is sleeping in a room with inadequate ventilation can decrease the risk of that infant dying of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), according to a report released on October 6, 2008. *Medical News Today* (7 October): <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/124283.php>

UK: New figures show, for the first time, the cost of obesity to every Primary Care Trust in England. *Medical News Today* (7 October): <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/124439.php>

Health Workers:

International: Lack of medical workers causes new health crisis in developing countries. *International Herald Tribune* (1 October): <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2008/10/01/asia/medical.php>

Iraq: There has been a mixed reaction to a government decision to allow doctors to carry guns for their own protection. *IRIN News* (6 October): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80753>

Malawi: A chronic lack of healthcare workers in Malawi has crippled the health system. *IRIN Plus News* (1 October): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80698>

UK: A £2m recruitment drive is to begin next week to find staff for a new £8.2m psychiatric intensive care and low secure unit for Norfolk. *BBC News* (05 October): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7653218.stm>

HIV/AIDS:

Africa: The AIDS virus first began spreading among humans at the turn of the 20th century in sub-Saharan Africa, just as modern cities were emerging in the region, US researchers say. *Health 24* (2 October): http://www.health24.com/news/HIV_AIDS/1-920,48148.asp

Chad: Chad has experienced decades of armed rebellions and weak governments, so a looming AIDS crisis is the last thing it needs. *IRIN Plus News* (6 October): <http://www.plusnews.org/InDepthMain.aspx?InDepthId=74&ReportId=78991>

China: HIV infections jumped eightfold over the past few years in parts of China among gay and bisexual men, according to new data from southern China. *The International Herald Tribune* (1 October): <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2008/10/01/business/01hiv.php>

Ghana: HIV and AIDS have been identified as significant to women's reproductive health and their rights. There is lack of access to information, education and health care which could prevent HIV and AIDS. *All Africa.com* (6 October): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200810061504.html>

International: The 2008 Nobel Prize in medicine was shared on Monday between the researchers who discovered the AIDS virus and a researcher who illustrated the role of viruses in cervical cancer. *Health 24* (6 October): http://www.health24.com/news/General_health/1-915,48182.asp

International: The time has come for urgent action to make male circumcision part of the arsenal against HIV transmission, say some of South Africa's leading experts on the disease. *Health 24* (1 October): http://www.health24.com/news/HIV_AIDS/1-920,48142.asp

International: More funding is needed for condoms in the fight against HIV, a UN agency warns. *UN News Centre* (3 October): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=28417&Cr=HIV&Cr1=>

International: There is not enough evidence to say circumcision protects men from getting the AIDS virus during sex with other men even as studies show it protects them when having sex with women, U.S. researchers said. *Reuters* (8 October): <http://in.reuters.com/article/health/idINTRE49691V20081007>

South Africa: South Africa's new health minister, Barbara Hogan, has listed the twin epidemics of HIV and TB as among the most serious health challenges facing the country. *IRIN Plus News* (2 October) <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80715>

USA: A new AIDS vaccine research centre dedicated to solving one of the most difficult problems holding back development of such a vaccine will open in California. *Health 24* (1 October): http://www.health24.com/news/HIV_AIDS/1-920,48138.asp

USA: Being HIV-positive will no longer be a bar to the granting of a visa to visit the USA, according to new rules issued by the US Department of Homeland Security. *Aids Map News* (30 September): <http://www.aidsmap.com/en/news/4B97D434-6BCB-481A-B0C3-E2BF3CD67F6A.asp>

Malaria, TB and Other Diseases:

Africa: Four African countries have cut malaria deaths by half through a mix of bed net distribution, indoor spraying, improved access to treatment and advances in disease surveillance. *All Africa* (5 October): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200810060861.html>

China: A US study has suggested that more than 80 million people in China will die in the next 25 years as a result of lung disease. *BBC News* (4 October): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/7652140.stm>

Guinea-Bissau: UNICEF is helping with prevention and hygiene-awareness efforts aiming to stave off cholera in Guinea-Bissau. *UNICEF* (6 October): http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/guineabissau_45849.html

International: The emergence of a devastating drug-resistant strain means that tuberculosis now kills more of us than malaria. Award-winning photographer James Nachtwey traveled from Siberian prisons to Cambodian clinics to document the battle against this 'virtually untreatable' and deadliest of diseases. *The Guardian* (5 October): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2008/oct/05/infectiousdiseases.photography>

International: Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) has made an urgent call for the wider implementation of the newer and more effective anti-malaria strategies in an effort to save lives. *Health-e* (30 September): <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032093>

Iraq: More than 300 confirmed cholera cases have been registered in central and southern Iraq since an outbreak began on 20 August. *IRIN News* (28 September): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80633>

Mental Health:

International: Millions with mental disorders in the developing world are deprived of necessary treatment and care. *WHO* (9 October): <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2008/pr37/en/index.html>

The World Health Organization has launched its action programme, the mental health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP), which aims at scaling up services for mental, neurological and substance use disorders for countries especially with low and middle income. Details are available at: http://www.who.int/mental_health/en/ See also the Lancet <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608615287/fulltext>

Prisons:

International: The top United Nations human rights official today called for increased attention to the plight of those worldwide – including some one million children – who are deprived of their liberty and are being held in prisons and other places of detention, often illegally. *UN News Centre* (2 September): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=28432&Cr=detainee&Cr1=>

Turkey: A Turkish human rights organisation says government neglect is responsible for what it calls the massacre of 11 prisoners at a jail in the capital Ankara. *BBC News* (28 September): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/459222.stm>

UK: Prisoners are having the iris patterns in their eyes or their fingerprints recorded as part of a security initiative aimed at tackling drug problems in jail. *The Guardian* (30 September): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/sep/30/prisonsandprobation.drugsandalcohol>

Poverty:

Canada: Not enough is being done to combat child poverty in Canada, which is virtually at the same level as it was in 1989, says a new report. *The Canadian Press* (7 October): <http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5ivM3koBZyhufGPV85IS8afVIEMCQ>

Ethiopia: The United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) is appealing for an additional \$8 million to fund its humanitarian preparedness and response operations in Ethiopia. *UN News Centre* (3 October): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=28425&Cr=Ethiopia&Cr1=>

Nepal: Nepal's precarious food security situation is being tested after heavy flooding over the past two months in both the east and west of the country left almost 250,000 people displaced. *IRIN News* (3 October): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80734>

Nepal: Two United Nations agencies today welcomed a call issued by Nepal's Supreme Court for food to be supplied to one dozen districts in the Asian nation's mid- and far-western regions. *UN News Centre* (3 October): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=28415&Cr=Nepal&Cr1=>

Refugees and Migrants:

Somalia: At least 52 Somalis perished after their stricken vessel was abandoned by smugglers in the Gulf of Aden, leaving them adrift for 18 days without food or water. *UNHCR* (29 September): <http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/48e0c8df4.html>

South Africa: The medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres says South Africa has halted aid for some foreigners displaced during May's xenophobic violence. *BBC News* (3 October): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/7650771.stm>

Right to Water:

Angola: Six years after peace came to Angola, more than a million of these displaced people still remain, cramped onto hillsides prone to collapse during the heavy rains and living without many basic facilities, including access to clean and safe water. *IPS* (1 October): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=44087>

Georgia: Displaced families in Gori, Georgia rely on their camp's water supply for drinking and washing, so water safety is vital to maintaining the overall health of camp residents. *UNICEF* (3 October): http://www.unicef.org/emerg/index_45840.html

Sexual and Reproductive Rights:

Afghanistan: The Afghan fertility rate is second highest in the world at 7.5 children per woman-every 28 minutes a woman dies in Afghanistan during childbirth. *BBC News* (4 October): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7646821.stm>

International: More than 500,000 women die in pregnancy or childbirth every year in the developing world due to lack of proper care, report Rebecca Seal and Katrina Manson. *The Observer* (28 September): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/sep/28/sierraleone.internationalaidanddevelopment>

Jamaica: Recognising women's sexual and reproductive autonomy contradicts long-standing social norms that render women subordinate to men in their families and communities. *The Jamaica Observer* (6 September): http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/magazines/AllWoman/html/20081005T230000-0500_140992_OBS_SAFE_AND_LEGAL_ABORTION_IS_A_WOMAN_S_HUMAN_RIGHT_PT_.asp

Mexico: Legal access to abortion, available since April 2007 in the Mexican capital, should be extended to the rest of the country, where the rate of illegal abortions exceeds the average for developing countries and the total number reached 880,000 in 2006, up 64 percent from 1990. *IPS* (8 October): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=44181>

Torture:

Ethiopia: Ethiopia rejected torture claims by Human Rights Watch (HRW) against terror suspects saying the claims by HRW are “unsubstantiated and most are simply untrue. *The Sudan Tribune* (7 October): <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article28845>

International: Psychiatrists and other physicians must not take part in interrogations of persons detained by military authorities, according to both an APA position statement and AMA ethics guidelines. *APF* (3 October): <http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/43/19/2>

Jordan: Jordan should end routine and widespread torture in its prisons, Human Rights Watch said in a new report. *Human Rights Watch* (8 October): <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2008/10/08/jordan19909.htm>

UK: Government plans to enable police to hold terror suspects without charge for 42 days have caused considerable concern at Europe's human rights body. *BBC News* (30 September): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7645191.stm

Violence against Women:

Europe: In June 2008 in Strasbourg, the Council of Europe closed its 18 month *Campaign to Combat Violence against Women*. It was one of the most successful and visible campaigns of the Council of Europe, in which most of its member states took part. *RH Reality Check* (7 October): <http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/blog/2008/10/06/council-europe-puts-violence-against-women-agenda>

Mali: At least 300 women are victims of sexual violence every year in Bamako, according to local police records. *IRIN News* (2 October): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80716>

Pakistan: The current campaign against "honour" killings in Pakistan led by anti-death penalty NGOs has support from lawmakers and lawyers pressing for modifications of Islamic law to prevent perpetrators from evading justice. *IPS* (6 October): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=44132>

USA: The United States retailer Marshalls has signed on to a United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) campaign to bring an end to violence against women. *UN News Centre* (02 October): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=28407&Cr=UNIFEM&Cr1=>

USA: The Department of Justice granted over \$114 million yesterday as part of its efforts to address and prevent violence against women across the country. *Ms Magazine* (30 September): <http://www.ms magazine.com/news/uswirestory.asp?ID=11313>

Yemen: A Netherlands-funded project is aiming to provide better protection for women and children exposed to violence and sexual abuse. *IRIN News* (03 October): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=80714>

Venezuela: Venezuelan officials receiving complaints on violence against women have begun the second training course to improve their work. *Prensa Latina* (3 October): [http://www.plenglish.com/article.asp?ID=%7B006D1635-E765-4326-A98E-77E2B331B31F%7D\)&language=EN](http://www.plenglish.com/article.asp?ID=%7B006D1635-E765-4326-A98E-77E2B331B31F%7D)&language=EN)

Conferences/Seminars/Courses:

National Sexual Assault Conference: Bridges to Social Change

9-11 September 2009, Virginia, USA. For more information see: <http://www.pcar.org/nsac/>

SVRI Forum 2009 South Africa: Research for Advocacy and Interventions to end Sexual Violence

6-9 July 2009, Johannesburg, South Africa. For more detailed information visit: <http://svriforum2009.svri.org/>

Second AMANET Workshop on Advanced Health Research Ethics for Investigators

23-27 February 2009, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Deadline for applications is 31 October 2008. More information can be found online at: <http://www.amanet-trust.org/ext/news/AHRECall2009.html>

Publications:

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Eghtessadi R, "Gender violence and HIV: Reversing twin epidemics". Exchange magazine - No. 3, 2008, Royal Tropical Institute. Available online at:

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