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## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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### Amnesty International reports & statements

See the following: <http://web.amnesty.org/news/engindex>

### Human Rights

**Gaza Strip.** A disabled man in his 70s died when Israeli troops demolished a building where he was living in the Gaza Strip, 2 July, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/3885725.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/3885725.stm)

**Gaza Strip.** The Israeli military's destruction of a Palestinian media office in Gaza City had no justification under international law, said Human Rights Watch, 2 July <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/07/01/isrlpa8991.htm>

**Israel.** Israeli soldier killed and 33 other people were injured when a bomb exploded at a bus stop in Tel Aviv, Haaretz.com, 12 July, <http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/spages/450203.html>

### Genocide

**Rwanda.** The Rwandan government should reject a parliamentary request to dissolve one of the country's leading human rights groups unfairly accused by a parliamentary commission of harboring genocidal ideas, Human Rights Watch said 2 July <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/07/02/rwanda8996.htm>

**UN.** The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, has announced the appointment of the first special UN advisor on the prevention of genocide. Juan Mendez (59) is an Argentinian human rights lawyer and one-time political prisoner under the military regime that ruled his native country in the 1970s. Radio Netherlands, 13 July, <http://www.rnw.nl/hotspots/html/un040713.html>

## **Death penalty**

**Iraq.** The death penalty, suspended by US occupation authorities, has been reinstated. World News, 6 July, <http://www.namibian.com.na/2004/July/world/044FE629C6.html>

## **HIV/AIDS**

**Asia.** Thirty-eight million people around the world are now living with HIV, reports UNAids, BBC 6 July, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3867401.stm>

**Swaziland.** A high-powered delegation of Anglican bishops from five nations completed a two-day fact finding tour of Swaziland, examining issues such as constitutional reform and the high HIV/AIDS rate. allAfrica.com, 14 July, <http://allafrica.com/stories/200407121197.html>

**UN:** Action against HIV/AIDS that does not confront gender inequality is doomed to failure, according to a new report by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Population Fund, <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=3316>

## **News from XV International AIDS Conference, (IAC) Bangkok, 11-16 July 2004, Thailand:**

The target of the World Health Organization to give Aids drugs to three million people in the developing world by the end of 2005 will not be met, warns Professor Joep Lange, co-chair of the UNAIDS conference in Bangkok, BBC 9 July, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3879899.stm>

A Pandemic Within the Pandemic. Speech on HIV & women by Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa, allAfrica.com, 12 July, <http://allafrica.com/stories/200407120001.html>

IAC calls for scaling up access to life-prolonging medicine for those infected and raises a key question: Are patents preventing drugs from reaching millions of needy? AP, 13 July, <http://asia.news.yahoo.com/040713/ap/d83pl3p02.html>

For more news and information from the IAC, see: <http://www.hdnet.org/home2.htm>

## **Mental health**

**Australia.** Human Rights Commissioner believes there has been a clear breach of human rights if stories about mental health services in south-west Western Australia are true. ABC South West WA, 6 July <http://abc.net.au/southwestwa/news/200407/s1147508.htm>

## **Organ trade**

**Afghanistan:** President Hamid Karzai has issued a decree ordering the death penalty for criminals who remove body parts from kidnapped children, Reuters 4 July 2004, <http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/WireFeed/WireFeed&c=WireFeed&cid=1088083221871>

## **Prisoners**

**China.** The doctor who exposed the under-reporting of cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in China is in custody and is being subjected to "study sessions," in which he is being pressured to bring his views into line with those of the government. BMJ 2004;329:130 17 July  
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7458/130-c>

**Tunisia.** Dozens of political prisoners are being held in inhumane conditions of solitary confinement, Human Rights Watch said in a report, 7 July  
<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/07/07/tunisi9000.htm>

## Right to health

**Belgium.** Under Belgian law anyone living in Belgium has the right to health care, even if they are in the country illegally. Expatica. 4 July,  
[http://www.expatica.com/source/site\\_article.asp?subchannel\\_id=48&story\\_id=9496](http://www.expatica.com/source/site_article.asp?subchannel_id=48&story_id=9496)

**Peru.** As the United States and Peru negotiate a trade pact, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health urged them to ensure any agreement includes public health safeguards so that essential drugs do not become unaffordable for millions of Peruvians. UN Press Release, 5 July,

<http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/35C240E546171AC1C1256EC800308A37>

**UK.** Two doctors have admitted carrying out circumcisions on two baby boys without the parents' written consent, the General Medical Council has heard. BBC 12 July,  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/3887503.stm>

## Reproductive health

New reproductive health website: Cervical Barrier Advancement Society (CBAS):  
[www.cervicalbarriers.org](http://www.cervicalbarriers.org)

## Torture

**Egypt.** Egyptian officials harassed a clinic for victims of torture and threatened it with closure because of its work to document and rehabilitate victims of abuse, a doctor at the clinic said, Reuters 14 July,  
<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=5666768>

**Iran.** The director of a prison in southern Iran has been dismissed after an inmate was hung from the ceiling for hours and had to have his hands amputated as a result. The Australian, 5 July,  
[http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,5744,10050639%255E1702,00.html](http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,10050639%255E1702,00.html)

**Kashmir.** Thousands of people have protested in Handwara, a town in Indian-administered Kashmir, against the alleged police torture of a schoolgirl. A doctor told the Associated Press news agency that Hussaina was suffering from lash wounds, broken bones and damaged tendons and muscles. BBC 9 July

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south\\_asia/3880797.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/3880797.stm)

**Kenya.** A doctor yesterday recounted to the High Court how he was harassed by the Government for disclosing that police had tortured a suspect to death. allAfrica.com, 13 July,

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200407121604.html>

**Pakistan.** Lahore City Police Chief Tariq Saleem Dogar has directed all police officers to ensure that complaints about illegal confinement and torture in police stations are investigated and redressed. Daily Times, 15 July,

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story\\_14-7-2004\\_pg7\\_21](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_14-7-2004_pg7_21)

**Saudi Arabia.** Foreign workers face torture, forced confessions and unfair trials when they are accused of crimes, Human Rights Watch said, 15 July,  
<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/07/15/saudia9061.htm>

## **Violence against women and women's rights**

**Africa.** Africa's male rulers are accused of ignoring a year-old commitment to end inequalities, condemning women to violence, ignorance and disease. allafrica.com, 6 July,  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200407060907.html>

**Moldova.** Ruthless sex traders are exploiting tens of thousands of young women from Moldova who are desperately seeking a better life outside Europe's poorest country, reports the BBC (10 July).  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/from\\_our\\_own\\_correspondent/3878503.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/3878503.stm)

**Uganda.** Ten female circumcision (female genital mutilation) surgeons in Kapchorwa district resolve to abandon the practice, allafrica.com, 14 July  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200407140046.html>

## **Conferences**

**National Refugee Men's Health Forum, 6 September 2004, 73 Miller St North, Sydney, Australia.** For more information call the NSW Refugee Health Service on 02 87780770 or email [mark.byrne@swhs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mark.byrne@swhs.nsw.gov.au)

**The 1st International Conference on prison health, 9th & 10th September 2004, Institute of Physics, 76 Portland Place, London W, UK.** Fees: £499 for 2 days and £299 for one day. Application should be made to : MA Healthcare Ltd, Prison Health 2004, Freepost BFH 1337, London SE24 9BR. [www.mahealthcarevents.co.uk](http://www.mahealthcarevents.co.uk) or [www.prisonhealthcarepractitioners.com](http://www.prisonhealthcarepractitioners.com) or [rjwool@wicken.nildram.co.uk](mailto:rjwool@wicken.nildram.co.uk)

**Second World Congress Against the Death Penalty, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Canada, 6-9 October 2004.** Roundtable on doctors against the death penalty, Thursday 7 October 2004 08:30-10:30. Chair: Jim Welsh (Amnesty International). Information on the Congress is available at: <http://www.montreal2004.org/ENG/program.php>

## **Vacancies**

The University Center for International Studies and the Graduate School for Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh invites applications for the 2005 Kabak Fellowship in International Conflict and Conflict Resolution. Deadline for submission of the Intent Form is July 27, 2004, and the deadline for completion of the application process is August 1, 2004. For more information and to obtain application forms, please visit <http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/kabakfellowship> Inquiries can be made at [kabak@ucis.pitt.edu](mailto:kabak@ucis.pitt.edu) or by fax at 412-624-4672.

## **Publications**

Ercevik Amado L. Sexual and bodily rights as human rights in the Middle East and North Africa. *Reprod Health Matters*. 2004 May;12(23):125-8.  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list\\_uids=15242219](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15242219)

Galbraith SN. Medico-legal issues surrounding medical countermeasures used in the Gulf War--part 1  
*J R Army Med Corps*. 2000 Feb;146(1):33-6,  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list\\_uids=15241983](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15241983)

Françoise Girard. Global Implications of U.S. Domestic and International Policies on Sexuality, The Center for Gender, Sexuality and Health, Columbia University, June 2004:  
<http://www.healthsciences.columbia.edu/dept/sph/cgsh/IWGSSPWorkingPaper1English.pdf>

Thomas G. Gutheil. Forensic Psychiatry as a Specialty. *Psychiatric Times*, June 2004, Vol. XXI, Issue 7, <http://www.psychiatrytimes.com/p040631.html>

Peter Hall. Doctors and the war on terrorism. *BMJ* 2004;329:66 (10 July),  
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7457/66>

Helie A. Holy hatred, *Reprod Health Matters*. 2004 May;12(23):120-4,  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list\\_uids=15242218](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15242218)

J. Steven Lamberti. New Approaches to Preventing Incarceration of Severely Mentally Ill Adults. *Psychiatric Times*, June 2004, Vol. XXI, Issue 7, <http://www.psychiatrytimes.com/p040633.html>

Lehmann LS, Kasoff WS, Koch P, Federman DD. A Survey of Medical Ethics Education at U.S. and Canadian Medical Schools. *Acad Med*. 2004 Jul;79(7):682-689,  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list\\_uids=15234922](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15234922)

Oosterhoff P, et al. Sexual torture of men in Croatia and other conflict situations: an open secret. *Reprod Health Matters*. 2004 May;12(23):68-77  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list\\_uids=15242212](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15242212)

Parker, Michael J. Getting ethics into practice. Editorial. *BMJ* 2004;329:126, 17 July,  
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7458/126>

Physicians for Human Rights: Action Plan to Prevent Brain Drain: Building Equitable Health Systems in Africa, [allafrica.com](http://allafrica.com), 15 July, <http://allafrica.com/stories/200407150041.html>

R T A Scott. A question of medical ethics from Somalia. *BMJ* 2004;329:119 (10 July),  
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7457/119>

Population Council, June 2004: Forced sexual relations among married young women in developing countries: <http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/popsyn/PopulationSynthesis1.pdf>

Population Council, June 2004: Sexual coercion: Young men's experiences as victims and perpetrators: <http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/popsyn/PopulationSynthesis2.pdf>

Population Council: The adverse health and social outcomes of sexual coercion  
<http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/popsyn/PopulationSynthesis3.pdf>

Rohan Vora. *The Health of Refugees (Public Health Perspectives from Crisis to Settlement)* Ed. Pascale Allotey (Oxford University Press 2003), <http://www.brashn.org>

Tambiah Y. Sexuality and women's rights in armed conflict in Sri Lanka. *Reprod Health Matters*. 2004 May;12(23):78-87  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list\\_uids=15242213](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15242213)

Various authors. Reasonable Doubts, a special report on the death penalty, The American Prospect, July 2004, Death Penalty Information Center,  
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1060&scid=64>,

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Health and human rights team  
 Amnesty International - International Secretariat  
 Tel: +44 20 7413 5522

Fax: +44 20 7956 1157  
<http://www.amnesty.org/health>