
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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NB Please note that our email address has changed from medical@amnesty.org to health@amnesty.org

Summary

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Amnesty International reports & statements

See the following recent AI news releases:

Greece. Human rights violated on the margins of society (5 Oct).
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGEUR250212005?open&of=eng-369>

Palestinian Authority (PA). Palestinian armed groups must stop endangering civilians in reckless shootings and attacks (3 Oct).
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGMDE210152005>

People's Republic of China. Re-instatement of Supreme Court review of death sentences - a step towards abolition? (5 Oct)
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA170352005>

Spain-Morocco. Migrant rights between two fires (3 Oct).
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGEUR410112005>

USA. Senate motion against cruel and degrading treatment (6 Oct).
<http://news.amnesty.org/index/ENGAMR511612005>

USA. Police mistreatment and abuse widespread in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities nationwide (22 Sept).
<http://news.amnesty.org/index/ENGAMR511502005>

These and other press releases and reports are accessible at: <http://web.amnesty.org/library/eng-recent/index>

Asylum seekers/refugees

Morocco/Spain. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has published a report documenting escalating violence against immigrants crossing from Morocco to Spain.

http://www.msf.org/source/countries/africa/morocco/2005/morocco_2005.pdf

UK. Response by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture to the Consultation on Dispersing Asylum Seekers with Healthcare Needs.

<http://dotm1.net/t.aspx?l=73404&i=27604316>

Death Penalty

China. The Supreme Court is to regain its power to review death sentences, as the authorities move to stem criticism that the death penalty is too widely used, as reported by the BBC (27 Sept).

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4285674.stm>

USA. Judge Boyce Martin wrote that "the death penalty in this country is arbitrary, biased, and so fundamentally flawed at its very core that it is beyond repair", reported DPIC (4 Oct).

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1577&scid=64>

HIV/AIDS

India. The BBC reported on the cases of a number of HIV-positive women in India (21 Sept).

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/4260314.stm

Human rights

Iraq. The various rationales offered by insurgent groups in Iraq for their attacks on civilians are not justified in international law, Human Rights Watch said (3 Oct).

<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/10/03/iraq11804.htm>

report: <http://hrw.org/reports/2005/iraq1005/>

Israel. It is illegal for the Israel Defense Forces to use Palestinian civilians as "human shields" in arrest raids, the High Court of Justice ruled as reported on Haaretz com (6 Oct).

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/632440.html>

Myanmar. The UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar, Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, has presented his latest report to the UN General Assembly. See:

[http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=16014&Cr=Myanmar&Cr1=\(UN press release\)](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=16014&Cr=Myanmar&Cr1=(UN%20press%20release)). His report, dated August, is available here:

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/459/65/PDF/N0545965.pdf>

Saudi Arabia has set up the country's first Human Rights Commission reported the Khaleej Times (5 Oct).

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/Displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/editorial/2005/October/editorial_October10.xml§ion=editorial&subsection=editorial

Uganda. The International Criminal Court has issued its first arrest warrants against five leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel group responsible for human rights abuses, including the kidnapping children in northern Uganda. See Timesonline:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-1815645,00.html> (7 October).

The ICC website is: <http://www.icc-cpi.int/home.html>.

See also Reuters Alertnet (8 October):

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L07210678.htm>

UK. Britain has one of the worst human rights records in Europe and faces investigation over its failure to comply with a series of European court rulings according to the *Independent* (3 Oct).

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/legal/article316691.ece>

UK. The government is attempting to overturn a court ruling that prevents foreign terrorist suspects from being deported from Britain to Algeria and other countries with poor human rights records, reports the British Guardian (3 Oct).

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/homeaffairs/story/0,11026,1583679,00.html>

Right to health

Turkey. Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) has published its report on Turkey: Behind Closed Doors: Human Rights Abuses in the Psychiatric Facilities, Orphanages and Rehabilitation Centers of Turkey.

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

See also the editorial in the Lancet:

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673605675022/> (8 October)

Torture

CPT. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) has published its 15th General Report. See the press release here:

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/annual/press/2005-09-22-eng.htm>

and the report here: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/annual/rep-15.htm>. (22 September)

Uganda. The Uganda Human Rights Commission recommends the criminalisation of torture, as reported on allAfrica.com (28 Sept).

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200509270695.html>

USA. Army troops subjected Iraqi detainees to severe beatings and other torture at a base in central Iraq from 2003 through 2004, often under orders or with the approval of superior officers, according to accounts from soldiers released according to Human Rights Watch (24 Sept).

<http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2005/09/25/usint11776.htm>

report: <http://hrw.org/reports/2005/us0905/>

US. The Senate delivered a stern rebuke to the Bush administration adding language banning U.S. torture of military prisoners to a military spending bill, as reported on Kentucky.com (5 Oct).

<http://www.kentucky.com/mld/kentucky/news/12826095.htm>

Women's rights

China. Officials in China's Shandong province have been accused of using brutal methods—including kidnappings and coerced abortions—to enforce the country's one-child policy, reports Jonathan Watts in the Lancet (8 October):

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673605675101>.

Courses

Prison medicine. The online course in prison medicine available via the web sites of the World Medical Association and the Norwegian Medical Association is now available in Spanish. Visit: <http://lupin-nma.net/index.cfm?&lang=3>

Discrimination, santé et droits humains. Certificate of continuing education. Geneva: January to June 2006

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Vacancies

The Mental Disability Advocacy Center seeks a consultant to develop a client support manual and a consultant to develop a comprehensive training package for use with lay advocates in psychiatric hospitals. Please send covering letter and CV to Oliver Lewis, MDAC Legal Director, olewis@mdac.info by 21 October. Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) H-1073 Budapest, Erzsébet krt. 52, Hungary
Tel: +36 1 413 2730 Fax: +36 1 413 2739
Email: mdac@mdac.info Web: www.mdac.info

Publications

Bichescu D. Long-Term Consequences of Traumatic Experiences: An Assessment of Former Political Detainees in Romania. *Clin Pract Epidemiol Ment Health*. 2005 Sep 26;1(1):17
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=16185364&query_hl=16]

Correspondence. The *Lancet* publishes (8 October) two letters in response to an earlier commentary by Dr Michael Wilks of the BMA on doctors and the war on terror (<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673605670353>). The letters are from Dr Peter Hall of Doctors for Human Rights UK (<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673605675204>) and Dr David N Tornberg of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, USA (<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673605675216>).

Editorial. A New Era of Hope for the World's Most Neglected Diseases. *PLOS* Vol 2 Issue9 Sept 2005
<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0020323>

Everyday Fears: A Survey of Violent Hate Crimes in Europe and North America. Human Rights First, New York. Available in PDF format at: <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/discrimination/pdf/everyday-fears-080805.pdf>

Fazel S, Benning R, Danesh J. Suicides in male prisoners in England and Wales, 1978–2003. *Lancet* 2005; 366:1301-1302.
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673605673254/abstract>.

Gatherer A, Moller L, Hayton P. The world health organization European health in prisons project after 10 years: persistent barriers and achievements. *Am J Public Health*. 2005 Oct;95(10):1696-700

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=16186449&query_hl=8

Grondahl P. Scandinavian forensic psychiatric practices - an overview and evaluation. *Nord J Psychiatry*. 2005;59(2):92-102.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=16195105&query_hl=8

Hefferman. J. US Health Professionals' Call to Prevent Torture and Abuse of Detainees in US Custody. *J Ambul Care Manage*. 2005 Oct-Dec;28(4):366-7

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=16172566&query_hl=7

Heines. Speaking Out to Improve the Health of Inmates. *Am J Public Health*. 2005 Oct;95(10):1685-8.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=16131633&query_hl=4

Rubenstein L et al. Coercive US interrogation policies: a challenge to medical ethics. *JAMA*. 2005 Sep 28;294(12):1544-9.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=16189368&query_hl=1

D M Sanders, C Todd, M Chopra. Confronting Africa's health crisis: more of the same will not be enough. *BMJ* 2005;331:755-758, 1 Oct.

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/331/7519/755>

Tobin J. The challenges and ethical dilemmas of a military medical officer serving with a peacekeeping operation in regard to the medical care of the local population. *J Med Ethics*. 2005 Oct;31(10):571-4.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=16199596&query_hl=1

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