
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Summary

- AI reports & statements
- Asylum seekers/refugees
- Children
- Death Penalty
- HIV/AIDS
- Human Rights
- Mental Health
- Prisoners
- Right to health
- Torture
- Employment opportunities
- Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements

See the following recent AI news releases [dates given in day/month/year format].

- 18/12/2006 [India: Amnesty International renews its call for an unconditional repeal of the Armed Forces \(Special Powers\) Act, 1958](#) ASA 20/034/2006
- 15/12/2006 [Somalia: Fears for human rights in looming conflict](#) AFR 52/004/2006
- 14/12/2006 [Chile: Death of Pinochet is not the end of the story](#) AMR 22/004/2006
- 14/12/2006 [Singapore: Government misusing the law to muzzle critics](#) ASA 36/005/2006
- 14/12/2006 [Sudan: key actors must now act decisively to ensure justice is done in Darfur](#) IOR 41/032/2006
- 14/12/2006 [UK: The killing of Jean Charles De Menezes -- a missed opportunity](#) EUR 45/022/2006
- 13/12/2006 [A timid response: The Human Rights Council finally takes steps towards sustained attention to the human rights violations in Darfur](#) IOR 41/030/2006
- 13/12/2006 [Amnesty International welcomes adoption of major new international treaty to protect rights of persons with disabilities](#) IOR 41/031/2006
- 13/12/2006 [UN: Human Rights Council resolution a lukewarm response to deepening crisis in Darfur](#) IOR 41/029/2006
- 12/12/2006 [Appeal to the UN Security Council to ensure that the mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Rwanda is fulfilled](#) IOR 40/045/2006
- 12/12/2006 [Bahrain: Amnesty International deplores first executions for 10 years](#) MDE 11/007/2006
- 12/12/2006 [Palestinian Authority: children killed amid growing lawlessness](#) MDE 21/009/2006
- 12/12/2006 [USA / Liberia: US indictment of Chuckie Taylor for torture](#) AMR 51/194/2006
- 11/12/2006 [Appeal to the United Nations Security Council to ensure that the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia fulfils its mandate](#) EUR 05/006/2006
- 11/12/2006 [EU: Make human rights the anchor of the Middle East peace process](#) MDE 02/039/2006
- 10/12/2006 [Israel/Occupied Territories: Open Letter from the Secretary General of Amnesty International to Heads of State and Government of EU member states](#) MDE 15/095/2006
- 10/12/2006 [Open Letter from Amnesty International's Secretary General to European Union leaders on human rights crisis in Israel and the Occupied Territories](#) MDE 15/096/2006
- 08/12/2006 [Indonesia: Landmark ruling for freedom of expression](#) ASA 21/024/2006

08/12/2006 [Pakistan: Growing anger at continuing enforced disappearances](#) ASA
33/052/20060.

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

Asylum seekers/refugees

Germany. The Nuremberg human rights film prize has been given to a film about the death of a young refugee in Germany. See Deutsche Welle, 17 December; <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2266448,00.html>

Children

India. Misery goes on for India child workers reports the BBC 10 December
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/6207494.stm

Death Penalty

Guinea. Human rights activists and prisoners themselves believe public pressure may reactivate the death penalty once more. allAfrica com 11 December
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200612111124.html?viewall=1>

Taiwan. The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP) have expressed their deepest concern about the risk of imminent execution of Chong Deshu, on death row in Taiwan for more than three years. See http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id_article=3894 (12 December)

USA. Florida Governor Jeb Bush has halted executions in the US state after a botched execution death by lethal injection. BBC 16 December
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/6185007.stm>

USA. Judge Jeremy Fogel has ruled in the case of *Morales* that the lethal injection procedure in California may be incompatible with the US Constitution. See the *San Francisco Chronicle* 16 December <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/12/16/DEATH.TMP> and *Los Angeles Times* (19 December) in which the Governor has promised a constitutional execution method. <http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-me-lethal19dec19,1,4898075.story>

USA. DPIC's 12th annual Year End Report reveals a broad decline in the use of the death penalty in the US. DPIC 15 December
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=2028&scid=64>

HIV/AIDS

Africa. Circumcision can cut the rate of HIV infection in heterosexual men by 50%, results from two African trials show. See BBC 13 December
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6176209.stm>

Council of Europe. Human Rights Commissioner Thomas Hammarberg has described the growth of HIV/AIDS rate, corrupt courts and xenophobia as Ukraine's main problems. Itar Tass 18 December, <http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/level2.html?NewsID=11091458&PageNum=0>

Libya. An appeal court has confirmed the death sentences passed by an earlier court on five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor who were alleged to have deliberately infected children with HIV. Expert witnesses testified in the earlier trial that the infection pre-dated the arrival of the health professionals. See the *Sofia Echo*:
http://www.sofiaecho.com/article/death-sentences-of-bulgarias-nurses-confirmed/id_19412/catid_66 ; *New York Times*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/19/world/middleeast/19cnd-libya.html?em&ex=1166677200&en=3faac0cb0c9dbfaf&ei=5087%0A> ; *Guardian*
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/latest/story/0,-6290637,00.html> (19 December))

Human rights

China. A Chinese lawyer who is well-known for taking on politically sensitive cases is reported to have been put on trial for subversion. BBC 13 December
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/6174819.stm>

Cuba. More than 200 Cuban government supporters attacked 15 human rights activists on International Human Rights Day reports the *Washington Post* , 10 December
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/10/AR2006121000382.html>

Morocco. Police violently broke up a human rights demonstration in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara reports the *International Herald Tribune* 10 December
http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/12/10/africa/AF_GEN_Morocco_Human_Rights_Day.php

Sudan. The UN Human Rights Council has agreed to send a team to investigate abuses in Sudan's Darfur region. BBC 13 December
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/6176781.stm>

Mental Health

Canada. Nearly half of all Canadian nurses feel they receive "low support" from co-workers, according to a new study which found that long work hours were common among nurses, but interpersonal and psychological factors contributed more to their health problems. See:
<http://www.ohscanada.com/issues/ISArticle.asp?id=63602&issue=12192006&btac=no>

Prisoners

Iraq. Almost every aspect of the judicial system in Iraq is lacking, poorly serving not just detainees but also Iraqi citizens and troops trying to maintain order, says the *International Herald Tribune*, 17 December. See <http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/12/17/news/justice.php>

Right to health

Disability. The UN General Assembly adopted the first UN convention to protect the rights of the disabled. *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* 13 December
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/1110AP_UN_Disabled_Rights.html

WHO. The World Health Organization has launched a video on the right to health: *Health - My Right*. WHO, 10 December. See: <http://www.who.int/hhr/news/en/>

World. The problem of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis may be even more severe than previously thought, experts warn. BBC 16 Dec
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6182223.stm>

Torture

Bangladesh. The country's elite anti-crime and anti-terrorism security force is responsible for widespread torture and killing more than 350 suspects in custody, Human Rights Watch said in a report. HRW 14 December
<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/12/13/bangla14844.htm>
report: <http://hrw.org/reports/2006/bangladesh1206/>

Canada. A former Supreme Court justice will lead a new inquiry into the detention and alleged torture of three Canadians in Syria. *Toronto Star* 13 December

http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1165963812231&call_pageid=968332188492

CPT. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture has visited Turkey (<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/tur/2006-12-07-eng.htm>) and Azerbaijan (<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/aze/2006-12-06-eng.htm>).

Liberia. Liberians allegedly tortured by the son of former president Charles Taylor have started to go public following the younger Taylor's indictment in the United States on charges of war crimes. allAfrica.com 13 December
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200612130730.html>

Tonga. There are calls for the international community to investigate allegations of torture and abuse of prisoners after last month's riots in Tonga. ABC online 13 December
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200612/s1811010.htm>

USA. Victims of wholesale torture taking place inside the U.S. prison system were uncovered during a four-month investigation for Channel 4. *Journalismus* 16 December
<http://oraclesyndicate.twoday.net/stories/3054458/>

Employment opportunities

COHRE (The Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, <http://www.cohre.org>) wishes to hire an Advocacy Manager to head the COHRE Geneva Office and Advocacy Unit. The Advocacy Manager will be based in COHRE's International Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. Starting date: immediate. Interested candidates should send a complete curriculum vitae with a cover letter, references and a writing sample to jessica@cohre.org.

Publications

Clark PA. *Medical ethics at Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib: the problem of dual loyalty.* *J Law Med Ethics* 2006 Fall;34(3):570-80, 481

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=pubmed&cmd=Retrieve&dopt=AbstractPlus&list_uids=17144181&query_hl=1&itool=pubmed_docsum

Editorial. Rehabilitation of traumatised refugees and survivors of torture. *BMJ* 2006; 333:1230-1231 (16 December)

<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/333/7581/1230>

Hooberman JB. et al. Classifying the torture experiences of refugees living in the United States. *J Interpers Violence.* 2007 Jan;22(1):108-23

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=pubmed&cmd=Retrieve&dopt=AbstractPlus&list_uids=17151382&query_hl=12&itool=pubmed_docsum

Keller AS. Torture in Abu Ghraib. *Perspect Biol Med.* 2006 Autumn;49(4):553-69.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=pubmed&cmd=Retrieve&dopt=AbstractPlus&list_uids=17146140&query_hl=6&itool=pubmed_docsum

Laks J et al. Forensic psychiatry and human rights along the course of life: children, adolescents and elderly. *Rev Bras Psiquiatr.* 2006 Oct;28 Suppl:s80-5

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=pubmed&cmd=Retrieve&dopt=AbstractPlus&list_uids=17143449&query_hl=1&itool=pubmed_docsum

T. Palmstierna, D. Olsson. Violence from young women involuntarily admitted for severe drug abuse. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica* 115:66 (January 2007). No link.

Taborda JG. et al. Forensic psychiatry ethics: expert and clinical practices and research on prisoners. *Rev Bras Psiquiatr.* 2006 Oct;28 Suppl:s86-92.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=pubmed&cmd=Retrieve&dopt=AbstractPlus&list_uids=17143450&query_hl=6&itool=pubmed_docsum

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