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# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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### Amnesty International reports & statements:

See the following selected recent AI reports and press statements. These and other press releases and reports are accessible at the following link under 'News and Updates': <http://www.amnesty.org/>

18 April: US Supreme Court rules lethal injections constitutional

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/us-supreme-court-rules-lethal-injections-constitutional-20080418>

18 April 2008: Iraq: 28 people executed after what seems to be hasty and unfair trial

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/iraq-28-people-executed-after-what-seems-be-hasty-and-unfair-trials-2008>

15 April: Amnesty International calls on governments to lift the veil of secrecy around executions

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/amnesty-international-calls-governments-lift-veil-secrecy-around-execut-0>

### Children:

**Congo:** Fighting malaria: the leading cause in morbidity and mortality among children younger than five in the Congo. *IRIN* (25 April): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=77926>

**International:** Millions of children, many of whom are victims of violence, sexual abuse, labour exploitation and preventable diseases, are from the crisis-plagued Arcan continent. *IPS* (21 April): <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=42068>

**Philippines:** Nutrition gains are at risk among children due to a surge in global food prices. *IRIN* (18 April): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=77822>

**UK:** Lost 400 children may have been trafficked into sex or drugs trade. *The Guardian* (23 April): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/apr/23/childprotection.immigrationandpublicservices>

## Death Penalty:

**Pakistan:** The World Coalition against the Death Penalty calls on President Mahmoud Abbas to declare an official moratorium on the death penalty. *Human Rights Tribune* (21 April): [http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/Against-the-death-penalty-in\\_3035](http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/Against-the-death-penalty-in_3035)

**Russia:** Penal Reform International suggests Russia may only be two or three years away from abolishing the death penalty. *IPS* (25 April): <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=42131>

**USA:** The Supreme Court issues a fractious opinion upholding Kentucky's lethal injection process. *Death Penalty Information Centre* (17 April): <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=2679&scid=64>

## Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:

**DRC:** Water is everywhere in the DRC, but is it safe to drink? *IPS* (24 April): <http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=42109>

**North Korea:** North Korea could be facing a famine in the months ahead. *IPS* (18 April): <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=42045>

**Uganda:** 7.5 million Ugandans are living in poverty and the majority of the population still lack access to safe and clean water, health and education services. *allAfrica* (24 April): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200804250110.html>

## Environment:

**Peru:** A US-owned smelter has been fined for violating air quality standards. *IPS* (23 April): <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=42102>

**Yemen:** Efforts are being made to reduce air pollution to save on associated health costs. *IRIN* (22 April): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=77857>

## Health Professionals:

**India:** Over 800 rural hospitals don't have a single doctor. *newKerala.com* (23 April): <http://www.newkerala.com/one.php?action=fullnews&id=51758>

**International:** Jailed Indian pediatrician wins 2008 Jonathan Mann award for Global Health and Human Rights. *The Earth Times* (21 April): [http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/jailed-indian-pediatrician-wins-2008\\_360448.shtml](http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/jailed-indian-pediatrician-wins-2008_360448.shtml)

**USA:** Nurses live with the aftermath of SARS. *Nurse.com* (21 April): <http://include.nurse.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080421/NATIONAL01/80418014/-1/frontpage>

**Vietnam:** The private sector has been luring away public health staff over the past five years. *Vietnam News* (24 April): <http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/showarticle.php?num=01HEA240408>

## Health Services:

**Angola:** Health minister pays greater attention to chronic diseases. *AngolaPress* (24 April): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200804240425.html>

**Bangladesh:** Lack of funds and staff shortages hit the health sector. *IPPF* (23 April): <http://www.ippf.org/en/News/Intl+news/Bangladesh+lack+of+funds+and+staff+shortages+hit+health+sector.htm>

**Gaza:** No ambulances has led to appeals for help on local radio stations. *Human Rights Tribune* (14 April): <http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/Gaza-No-ambulance-call-the-radio,3004>

**International:** Critical health care fails to reach most women and children in high mortality countries despite gains in fighting child killer diseases. *UNICEF* (16 April): [http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_43577.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_43577.html)

**South Africa:** Health standards such as access to care and clinical care are aimed at improving healthcare at hospitals. *Bua News* (24 April): <http://www.buanews.gov.za/view.php?ID=08042416451002&coll=buanew08>

**Vietnam:** Preventative healthcare centres, which supply need first-aid and epidemic relief are struggling to survive. *Vietnam News* (16 April): <http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/showarticle.php?num=01POP160408>

## HIV/AIDS:

**Africa:** HIV/AIDS activist praises Europe, but slams the US on AIDS. *IPPF* (25 April): <http://www.ippf.org/en/News/Intl+news/Africa+Activist+Praises+Europe+Slams+US+on+AIDS.htm>

**Brazil:** A new campaign against HIV/AIDs has been launched in Brazil aimed at gay men. *IPS* (14 April): <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=41985>

**China:** Quiet sexual revolution forces Beijing to admit dangers of AIDS. *The Guardian* (18 April): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/apr/18/china.aids>

**International:** Workplace attitudes to HIV/AIDS have vastly improved, reports the UN labour agency. *UN News Centre* (15 April): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26329&Cr=hiv&Cr1=aids>

**International:** Monitoring AIDS treatment by physical symptoms is effective. *WHO* (25 April): <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2008/pr12/en/index.html>

**Iran:** Iran offers addicts condoms and syringes from vending machines. *AFP* (16 April): <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gm4Dp9kEHgJv4Jlk56144AW-Pwmg>

**Tanzania:** Stigma slows the fight against AIDS in Tanga, Tanzania. *allAfrica* (24 April): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200804240570.html>

**Thailand:** Thailand's war on drugs undermines the fight against AIDS, say AIDS and human rights activists. *The Nation* (22 April): [http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2008/04/22/national/national\\_30071301.php](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2008/04/22/national/national_30071301.php)

## Malaria and Other Diseases:

**Brazil:** Brazil has launched new cheap treatment for malaria. *Reuters* (17 April): <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSL1519718420080417>

**International:** The first-ever world malaria day is on 25 April. *VOA News* (25 April): <http://www.voanews.com/english/2008-04-25-voa10.cfm>

**International:** The UN has announced a new push to send bed nets to prevent malaria deaths in Africa. *UN News Centre* (23 April): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26438&Cr=malaria&Cr1=>

**Madagascar:** Help from the UN has been sought for an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever. *UN News Centre* (18 April): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26385&Cr=madagascar&Cr1=>

**Vietnam:** Last weekend marked the first human trials of new avian flu vaccine. *Vietnam News* (21 April): <http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/showarticle.php?num=01HEA210408>

## **Mental Health:**

**UK:** 1 million children face mental health problems. *The Guardian* (22 April): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/apr/22/child.mentalhealth>

## **Refugee and Migrants' Rights:**

**Kenya:** Refugee camps in Kenya have been hit by malaria and diarrhoea. *The citizen* (25 April): <http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/newe.php?id=4561>

**UK:** The High court rules that asylum seekers have right to full NHS care, but the government considers appeal. *The Guardian* (12 April): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/apr/12/immigration.publicservices>

## **Sexual and Reproductive Health**

**Chile:** Thousands marched in the capital to protest a ban on the "morning-after" pill. *IPS* (23 April): <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=42100>

**Europe:** The Council of Europe demands safe and legal abortion for all. *AFP* (16 April): <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hp5F4UM0JFYC9xf1xvHX-AqOwOww>

**International:** UN urges group of eight nations to step up investments in maternal health. *UN news Centre* (18 April): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26390&Cr=child&Cr1=>

**Liberia:** UN-backed anti-rape campaign reaches the country's north. *UN news Centre* (16 April): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26350&Cr=liberia&Cr1=>

**Nigeria:** Unsafe abortion kills over 3,000 Nigerian women each year. *IPPF* (25 April): <http://www.ippf.org/en/News/Intl+news/Unsafe+Abortion+Kills+Over+3000+Nigerian+Women+Each+Year.htm>

**Nigeria:** A meeting has been held to discuss ownership and leadership of sexual and reproductive health in West African states. *Leadership* (24 April): [http://www.leadershipnigeria.com/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=26599&osCsid=d6bf933b5ba8484af8e034b99ce9b661](http://www.leadershipnigeria.com/product_info.php?products_id=26599&osCsid=d6bf933b5ba8484af8e034b99ce9b661)

**USA:** Maternal death rate increases, but more women aren't necessarily dying before, during or after childbirth. *Nurse.com* (21 April): <http://include.nurse.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080421/NATIONAL02/80418020/-1/frontpage>

## Torture:

**Congo:** Tortured women struggle for justice. *GINSC.Net* (22 April):

[http://www.ginsc.net/members/news\\_details\\_en.php?id=5681&sub=international&stat=active](http://www.ginsc.net/members/news_details_en.php?id=5681&sub=international&stat=active)

**Israel:** Israel's security forces have been 'using psychological torture' against interogees. *BBC News* (13 April): [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\\_east/7345025.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/7345025.stm)

**UK:** Amnesty International condemns "waterboarding" in a campaign to outlaw the controversial interrogation practice. *The Guardian* (April):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2008/apr/22/advertising.humanrights>

**USA:** Detainees at Guantanamo allege being drugged before questioning. *Washington Post* (22 April):

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/21/AR2008042103399\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/21/AR2008042103399_pf.html)

**USA:** Forced drugging of Guantanamo prisoners: a crisis for health professionals. *AlterNet* (23 April):

<http://www.alternet.org/rights/83292/?page=1>

## Violence against Women:

**DRC:** UNICEF teams up with V-Day campaign to stop rape in the DR Congo. *UN News Centre* (14 April):

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26307&Cr=drc&Cr1=rape>

**International:** UN-backed TV series peels back silence surrounding worldwide sexual violence. *UN News Centre* (17 April):

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26362&Cr=women&Cr1>

**International:** Actress and UN officials urge support for campaign to end violence against women. *UN News Centre* (22 April):

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26426&Cr=women&Cr1>

**Pakistan:** Violence against women more than doubled last year to over 4,000 cases, says Pakistani human rights organisation. *BBC* (15 April): [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/7349167.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7349167.stm)

**USA:** US women working in Iraq continue to be sexually assaulted while their rapists go free. *AlterNet* (17 April):

<http://www.alternet.org/rights/82743/>

## Conferences and Seminars:

**China:** XVIIth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect: Towards a Caring and Non-Violent Community: A Child's Perspective. Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, Hong Kong, China from 7-10 Sept 2008. For further information please see: [www.ispcan.org/congress2008](http://www.ispcan.org/congress2008)

**Northern Ireland:** International Women's Health Conference, The Everglades Hotel, Derry, Northern Ireland, May 29 to May 30 2008 <http://www.derrywellwoman.org/>

**Uganda:** Reproductive Health in Emergencies Conference 2008 will take place from June 18-20 at the Speke Conference Centre in Kampala, Uganda. Early Bird Registration will close April 30, 2008. To register, please visit

<http://www.rhinemergenciesconference.org/www.RHinEmergenciesConference.org>

**UK:** Human Rights and Social Justice seminar on 'HIV/AIDS, Religion and the Trans-national African Family' is taking place on Wednesday 7 May 2008 at 6.15pm in the Henry Thomas Room at London Metropolitan University. For further information, please see: <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/research-units/hrsj/seminar-series/>

USA: Summar Institute in Native American Health, George Washington University - Special and International Programs, May 19 to June 28 and July 7 to August 16. For more information please visit: <http://www.gwu.edu/%7Especprog/summerDC/NativeAmericanHealth.htm>

## Call for Papers:

*Epidemiologic Reviews* Theme Issue - 2009: Epidemiologic Approaches to Health Disparities. For further information visit: [http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our\\_journals/epirev/callforpapers.html](http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/epirev/callforpapers.html)

## Publications:

Barros A. and Bertoldi A, "Out-of-pocket health expenditure in a population covered by the Family Health Program in Brazil", *International Journal of Epidemiology*, doi:10.1093/ije/dyn063, 13 April 2008: <http://ije.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/dyn063v1?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFOR=MAT=1&author1=Andrea+D+Bertoldi&andorexacttitle=and&andorexacttitleabs=and&andorexactfulltext=and&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=relevance&fdate=//&resourcetype=HWCIT>

Choi et al., "Enhancing global capacity in the surveillance, prevention, and control of chronic diseases: seven themes to consider and build upon", *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, May 2008, Volume 62, Number 5: <http://jech.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/62/5/391>

Committee on the Future Health Care Workforce for Older Americans, "Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce", *The National Academic Press*, 14 April 2008: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12089](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12089)

Horton R., "Countdown to 2015: a report card on maternal, newborn, and child survival", *The Lancet*, Volume 371, Number 9620, 12 April 2008: <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608605334/fulltext>

King C.H. and Bertino A-M., "Asymmetries of Poverty: Why Global Burden of Disease Valuations Underestimate the Burden of Neglected Tropical Disease", *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, 2(3): e209. doi:10.1371/journal.pntd.0000209, March 2008: <http://www.plosntds.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pntd.0000209>

Sen G. and Östlin P., "Gender inequity in health: why it exists and how we can change it", *Global Public Health*, Volume 3 Supplement 1 2008: <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=g792137052~db=all>

Galobardes et al., "Is the association between childhood socioeconomic circumstances and cause-specific mortality established? Update of a systematic review", *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, May 2008, Volume 62, Number 5: <http://jech.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/62/5/387>

World Health Organization, "Protecting health from climate change", *WHO*, April 2008: [http://www.who.int/world-health-day/toolkit/report\\_web.pdf](http://www.who.int/world-health-day/toolkit/report_web.pdf)

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