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Amnesty International reports & statements:

24 September: Honduras: Amnesty International has received continuing reports of numerous demonstrators being beaten by police and some several hundred detained across Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras. The reports follow the break up by police of a mass demonstration outside the Brazilian Embassy on Tuesday.

<http://amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/beatings-and-detentions-follow-honduras-demonstrations-20090924>

24 September: Sri Lanka: A detainee was seriously injured and had to be hospitalized as a clash broke out between the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) and detainees being held at a school in Vavuniya in north-eastern Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

<http://amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/sri-lankan-army-clashes-detainees-20090924>

22 September: Sierra Leone: On the eve of world leaders meeting in New York to discuss increased funding for healthcare in developing countries, Amnesty International's Secretary General Irene Khan launched a campaign to reduce maternal deaths in Sierra Leone.

<http://amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/sierra-leone-one-eight-women-risk-dying-during-pregnancy-or-childbirth-h>

18 September: Dominican Republic: The Dominican parliament has voted in favour of constitutional changes that could lead to a total ban on abortions, a move Amnesty International says will put women and girls at risk and increase maternal deaths.

<http://amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/dominican-republic-delivers-quothuge-blowquot-women039s-right-life-20090918>

18 September: Pakistan: Amnesty International warns that the discovery of the remains of over 160 victims of extrajudicial execution in Pakistan's Swat Valley highlights the ongoing human rights crisis in the country's northwestern areas.

<http://amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/extrajudicial-executions-highlight-insecurity-pakistan-swat-valley-20090918>

17 September: Indonesia: A new Indonesian bylaw that endorses stoning to death for adultery and caning of up to 100 lashes for homosexuality should be repealed immediately, Amnesty International said on Thursday.

<http://amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/indonesia-must-repeal-cruel-new-stoning-caning-law-20090917>

16 September: Iraq: The Iraqi authorities should establish an immediate and independent investigation into allegations by journalist Muntadhar al-Zaidi, released on Tuesday after serving nine months in prison, that he was tortured by senior - as yet unnamed - government officials, said Amnesty International.

<http://amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/iraqi-authorities-investigate-shoe-throwing-journalist-torture-allegations-20090916>

Children:

International: When in 2007 a team of health specialists conducted a developmental assessment of the pupils at Dandelion Middle School near Beijing – an institution for children of migrant workers – it found that one of the factors hampering their ability to learn was not mental but physical. Many of the children had iron-related anaemia and were deficient in vitamins A and B.

Financial Times (15 September): http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/94ffed6-9cf5-11de-ab58-00144feabdc0.html?nclick_check=1

Italy/Nigeria: An alarming rise has been recorded in the number of Nigerian girls trafficked to Italy. Last year 1,782 young girls from Nigeria arrived in Lampedusa, compared to 166 in 2007, human rights organisations say. *IPS* (11 September): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48405>

Kenya: The drought that has ravaged parts of northeastern Kenya, killing a large number of livestock, has affected the availability of milk, in turn undermining child nutrition, say officials.

IRIN (23 September): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86259>

Somalia: The World Food Programme (WFP) is closing 12 feeding centres for mothers and children in Somalia. The WFP says it has simply run out of money and now has to make cuts. *BBC* (14 September): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/8256031.stm>

The Philippines: The Committee on the Rights of the Child today reviewed the combined third and fourth periodic reports of the Philippines on how that country is implementing the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. *Relief Web* (15 September):

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EGUA-7VWQPU?OpenDocument>

Yemen: A 12-year-old Yemeni girl, who was forced into marriage, died during a painful childbirth that also killed her baby, a children's rights group said Monday. *CNN* (14 September): <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/09/14/yemen.childbirth.death/>

Death Penalty:

India: The Supreme Court has said that the government has a duty to decide without much delay on mercy petitions of those sentenced to death. *The Hindu* (21 September): <http://www.thehindu.com/2009/09/21/stories/2009092160141100.htm>

Japan: With the inauguration of the new government led by the [Democratic Party of Japan](#), there could be a lull in executions of death-row inmates, at least for the time being. *Japan Times* (24 September): <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090924a3.html>

USA: The gruesome botching of an execution in Ohio on Tuesday, when technicians failed to find a vein in a Death Row inmate, is casting a fresh spotlight on the flaws in America's system of capital punishment at a time when public support for it may already be flagging. *The Tribune* (20 September): <http://www.tribune.ie/archive/article/2009/sep/20/botched-execution-revives-death-penalty-row-in-us/>

Food Security and Poverty:

Bangladesh: Millions of impoverished Bangladeshis are barely sustaining a hand-to-mouth existence that would be wrenched from their grasp by any fresh "economic shock," according to the UN food aid agency. *AFP* (19 September): <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jgXpCQ-01Tz9n7SpZDVL4FcDmEOw>

Guatemala: United Nations agencies say Guatemala is facing the worst drought in 30 years. They report some 2.5 million people in 21 provinces are affected and in need of urgent food assistance. *VOA News* (19 September): <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-09-19-voa14.cfm>

International: The world will have to produce 70 percent more food by 2050 to feed a projected extra 2.3 billion people and as incomes rise, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation said on Wednesday. *The New York Times* (23 September): http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2009/09/23/world/international-uk-food-demand-fao.html?_r=1

Kenya: About two million Kenyans currently relying on emergency food assistance from the World Food Programme are at risk of starving after the UN relief agency warned that it may withdraw funding. *Daily Nation (Kenya)* (19 September): <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/660376/-/uncbj7/-/>

Mozambique: Mozambique's National Institute of Disaster management (INGC) said on Tuesday about 275,000 people in the country need food aid after a long dry spell caused crop failure in some parts of the country. *Reuters* (22 September): <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssConsumerGoodsAndRetailNews/idUSLM28181320090922>

Pakistan: At least 14 women and children were killed in a stampede in Kohri Garden area in Old Karachi to get free flour although ensuring food security is a fundamental human right ensured under Article 14 of Pakistan's Constitution. *The News International (Pakistan)* (15 September): http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=198523

Health Services:

Hungary: Hospitals across Hungary hoisted green flags on Thursday in the first stage of a demonstration calling for extra cash doctors say is urgently needed to keep the country's health-care system afloat. *Earth Times* (24 September):

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/287028,hungarian-hospital-workers-threaten-hunger-strike-over-shortages.html>

International: Providing free healthcare to millions of women and children in some of the world's poorest countries has come a step closer, with the unveiling on 23 September of a US\$5.3 billion financing package by British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown. *IRIN* (24 September):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86280>

Liberia: Liberian and International NGOs have come together to call on donors and the Liberian government to provide more long-term and progressive funding for universal healthcare coverage and free essential services at the point of access. *AllAfrica* (23 September):

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200909230937.html>

Malawi: Many Malawians especially in rural areas are at the risk of dying from curable diseases due to shortage of essential drugs in healthy facilities country wide, a coalition of civil society groups has observed. *The Zimbabwean* (18 September):

<http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/2009091824656/african-perspectives/malawis-health-system-awful-needs-overhaul-watchdog.html>

Nigeria: President, National Association of Government General Medical and Dental Practitioners (NAGGMDP), Dr. Moses Adedoki, yesterday linked the decay in the country's health care system at the state levels to the lukewarm attitude of state governors in implementing health schemes or issues in their areas. *This Day* (25 September):

<http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=155422>

Health Workers:

India: Health services in Jajpur district have virtually slipped into a [coma](#) due to staff shortage and inadequate infrastructure. *Express Buzz* (17 September):

<http://www.expressbuzz.com/edition/story.aspx?Title=Staff+shortage+ails+Jajpur+healthcare&artid=0DitakEBshl=&SectionID=mvKkT3vj5ZA=&MainSectionID=fyV9T2Jla4A=&SectionName=nUFeEOBkuKw=&SEO=>

HIV and AIDS:

Africa: Shortages in supply of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs are caused by lack of political will and bad supply management, not by the global economic crisis, health experts say. *IPS* (23 September):

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48565>

Africa: The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Millennium Villages Project are entering into a partnership in a bid to eliminate the transmission of HIV from mothers to their children in Africa. *UNAIDS* (21 September):

http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/PressCentre/PressReleases/2009/20090921_PR_Millennium_Villages.asp

International: It worked only on two strains of a highly mutable virus, yielded modest results and is nowhere near commercial licensing. But the first successful trial of an HIV vaccine has given a huge boost to scientists seeking to inoculate humankind against the virus linked to AIDS. *Globe*

and Mail (25 September): <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/a-huge-boost-in-the-battle-for-hiv-vaccine/article1300930/>

International: Violence against women, the transition from war to peace and the criminalization of drug use and homosexuality are among the political, economic and social factors driving the HIV/AIDS pandemic, according to a United Nations-backed report released today. *UN News Centre* (22 September): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32143&Cr=hiv&Cr1=aids>

Kenya: Kenya's older citizens are not safe from the HIV/AIDS epidemic, according to the final report of the 2007 Kenya AIDS Indicator Survey. *PlusNews* (24 September): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86277>

South Africa: The AIDS response has developed real momentum the last three years as a result of strong leadership and the mobilisation of significant national and international resources, the regional director of UNAIDS for Eastern and Southern Africa, Mark Stirling said yesterday at the ongoing 9th International AIDS Impact Conference at the Gaborone International Convention Centre. *Mmegi Online* (24 September): <http://www.mmegi.bw/index.php?sid=1&aid=29&dir=2009/September/Thursday24>

USA: Noting that the District is the "epicenter" of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation opened a free treatment clinic Thursday in the 2100 block of K Street, at the gateway to Georgetown. *Washington Post* (25 September): <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/24/AR2009092402865.html>

Malaria, TB and Other Diseases:

Afghanistan: In an unprecedented move Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan have endorsed a three-day polio immunization drive in areas under their influence in Afghanistan, according to aid agencies. *IRIN* (14 September): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86136>

International: New data released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) sheds light on the leading causes of pneumonia and provides the first country-level information about the effects of pneumonia, the world's leading killer of children under five. *IPS* (11 September): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48411>

Papua New Guinea: An ongoing cholera outbreak is killing a growing number of people in Papua New Guinea and making scores more ill. But the disease is also having a severe effect on survivors. *IRIN* (22 September): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86238>

Tanzania: A total of 780 people died out of 307,793 people who had contracted malaria in Masasi District, Mtwara Region, in 2007/08. *The Citizen* (24 September): <http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/newe.php?id=15279>

Maternal Mortality:

Indonesia: The Mimika regency administration is focusing on alleviating the maternal mortality rate in their 12 districts through the local health office, in line with the program initiated by the provincial administration to provide good health care for people in rural areas of Papua, be they in the mountainous, hinterland or southern areas of Papua. *Jakarta Post* (23 September): <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/09/23/mimika-focuses-alleviating-maternal-mortality-rate.html>

International: No woman should die needlessly in childbirth with the resources and technology available in the world, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told a high-level gathering on the margins of the General Assembly today. *UN News Centre* (23 September): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32183&Cr=maternal+health&Cr1=>

Mozambique: In the Niassa province of northwest Mozambique, one doctor has been working with local communities to overcome the delays responsible for three-quarters of maternal deaths each year. *IPS* (17 September): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48476>

Nigeria: The National Association of Resident Doctors of Nigeria (NARD) has decried the high rate of maternal and child morbidity and mortality in the country and called for drastic measures. *Daily Triumph* (15 September): <http://www.triumphnewspapers.com/nrd1592009.html>

Zambia: Government has described the maternal mortality ratio across Africa and the rest of the world as a source of shame. *Lusaka Times* (25 September): <http://www.lusakatimes.com/?p=18203>

Prisons:

Australia: Victoria's high-security Acacia Unit at Barwon jail, just outside Melbourne, is one of the toughest prison regimes in the state. And now a court has been told the unit is dangerous to the mental health of those prisoners sent there on remand. *ABC News* (22 September): <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/22/2692740.htm?section=justin>

Ireland: Urgent action is needed in Dublin's Mountjoy Prison to alleviate the chronic overcrowding that has led to "unsafe, inhumane and degrading" conditions, the Inspector of Prisons Judge Michael Reilly has said. *Irish Times* (25 September): <http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/09/25/1224255210484.html>

USA: The new head of Illinois' penal system unveiled a plan Thursday to overhaul conditions at the state's only super-maximum security prison following sharp criticism from human rights advocates who compared the facility to Guantanamo Bay. *Chicago Tribune* (18 September): <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-tamms-prison-reforms-18sep18,0,4334833.story>

Sexual and Reproductive Rights:

Brazil: Although Brazil has the reputation of being more sexually liberal than its Spanish-speaking neighbours, Brazilians suffer their own fears of stigma when it comes to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) – the target of a new public health campaign. *IPS* (22 September): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48547>

Kenya: As the world marks the 3rd World Contraceptive Day on Saturday, inadequate use of contraceptives associated with high rates of abortions and birth rates remained a major concern among reproductive health experts in Kenya. *Capital News* (23 September): <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/Kenyanews/Kenya-decries-high-abortion-rate-5895.html>

Nepal: Lack of access to the health related facilities and unequal status of men and women has made the reproductive rights a distant dream for Nepalese women. *Ohmy News* (22 September): http://english.ohmynews.com/articleview/article_view.asp?at_code=437472&no=385643&rel_no=1

Uganda: Family planning advocates are to launch campaign aimed at reducing the 300,000 abortions carried out in Uganda every year. *New Vision Online* (24 September): <http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/13/695749>

USA: For some abortion-rights activists, the debate over health care reform has been frustrating, even disheartening, as they see their political allies on the defensive and their anti-abortion rivals on the attack. *Associated Press* (21 September): <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ga5wj8KWSfmbIJGOEPvxjd8QvX6QD9ARTS001>

Torture:

Canada: The federal government denies responsibility for the overseas imprisonment and torture of three Canadians, despite a commission of inquiry report that parcelled out blame to CSIS, the RCMP and Foreign Affairs. *The Canadian Press* (18 September): <http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5iyTfy92HBZKI71giQvggVFntfTfA>

Colombia: Killings, torture, threats and arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders reportedly by both guerrillas and law officers persist in Colombia, despite the Government's recent efforts to improve their lot, a United Nations expert said today. *UN News Centre* (September): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32114&Cr=colombia&Cr1=>

Europe: Europe must come clean on its involvement in CIA torture. EU governments should reveal the true extent of torture carried out on their soil. *Human Rights Watch* (24 September): <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/09/24/europe-must-come-clean-its-involvement-cia-torture>

USA: Prolonged stress from the CIA's harsh interrogations could have impaired the memories of terrorist suspects, diminishing their ability to recall and provide the detailed information the spy agency sought, according to a scientific paper published Monday. *Associated Press* (21 September): <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ij-XF4zu-AF4LZq8waEsX2HnOH0gD9AS09U80>

Violence against Women:

Australia: Vulnerable women in state-monitored care homes are reportedly being raped and are trading sex for cigarettes and money in cases that highlight years of neglect and inaction by the Victorian government, according to its own watchdog. *Sydney Morning Herald* (24 September): <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/claims-of-rape-at-care-homes-20090924-g2wq.html>

International: The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women was featured today as a Commitment to Action by the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI). Ricky Martin presented the UN Trust Fund during the CGI Annual Meeting, among other initiatives on ending violence against women, sponsored by the NoVo Foundation, Karama and Vital Voices. *UNIFEM* (24 September): http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=933

International: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today spotlighted the "shocking" abuse, violence and discrimination suffered by women, in a call for action to empower the gender that make up over half the world's population. *UN News Centre* (15 September): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32064&Cr=women&Cr1=violence>

Lebanon: As lawmakers struggle to form a government three months after Lebanon's parliamentary elections, women's rights activists await the opening of parliament to debate a new bill on domestic violence. *IRIN* (23 September): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86247>

Namibia: "FORTY-ONE per cent of Namibian men believe that it is okay for a man to beat his spouse, while 32 per cent of Namibian women think that there is no problem with men beating their partners." These are just a couple of the mind-boggling statistics that staff of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and partner representatives from 23 African countries will have in mind this week as they develop an action plan to combat violence against women. *AllAfrica* (22 September): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200909220541.html>

Scotland: Vital reforms to Scotland's rape laws are being put on hold for more than a year, despite fresh concern about the country's prosecution rate and the collapse of a high-profile trial. *The Herald* (20 September): <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/anger-as-radical-reform-of-rape-laws-delayed-by-a-year-1.920929>

South Africa: Crime statistics released yesterday show that reported sexual offences increased by 10 percent, but the police attribute this to changes in the Sexual Offences Act, which has introduced new categories of sexual crimes. *Independent Online* (23 September): http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=vn20090923122444723C442319

UK: A review of the treatment of rape victims by the police and other agencies in England and Wales has been ordered by ministers. It will look at how rape victims are treated from the moment they come into contact with the authorities. *BBC* (22 September): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8267866.stm>

Water and Sanitation:

India: Nearly 500 colonies in the northern areas of Prithviraj Nagar are in the grip of acute water crisis, especially after JDA's instructions. The residents allege that water tanker owners are reluctant to provide services in these colonies. Most of these colonies are dependent on water supplied by tankers. *Times of India* (21 September): <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/city/jaipur/500-colonies-under-acute-water-crisis/articleshow/5035495.cms>

Iraq: Iraq's water crisis is getting worse by the day, adding to the political uncertainty sweeping the country ahead of potentially incendiary parliamentary elections in January. *United Press International* (23 September): <http://www.upi.com/Energy/Resources/2009/09/23/Water-short-Iraq-faces-new-peril-the-sea/UPI-18861253720630/>

Israel/OPT: Unless urgent action is taken, the supply of water fit for human use in the Gaza Strip will be depleted in 5-10 years, according to the Gaza Coastal Municipal Water Utility (CMWU) and UN agencies working there. *IRIN* (15 September): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86151>

Malawi: A set of new research data contests the Malawian government's claims that nearly all of the country's urban citizens have access to clean water and sanitation. *IPS* (16 September): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48458>

Nepal: Most of Kathmandu's drinking water comes from the Bagmati river system, which has seven streams in Kathmandu valley. However, the supply is insufficient for the city, which has a chronic water shortage. *IRIN* (24 September): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86273>

Conferences/Courses:

Global forum for health research on: Innovating for the health of all

Havana, Cuba, 16-20 November 2009

The Global Forum for Health Research will focus on policies, incentives and new approaches to strengthen both social and technological innovation for health and health equity. Forum 2009 aims to improve understanding both of social and technological innovation in the global health community and of policies that create a conducive environment for innovation to improve health and health equity. Forum 2009 will highlight specific examples of innovation policies, initiatives and outputs for, in and by low-income countries. For further information see:

<http://www.globalforumhealth.org/Forums/Annual-Forums/Forum-2009>

Global Symposium on Health Systems Research

Montreux, Switzerland, 16-19 November 2010

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research is an international collaboration based in WHO Geneva. Researchers, policy-makers, funders, and other stakeholders representing diverse constituencies will gather in Montreux, Switzerland to share evidence, identify significant knowledge gaps, and set a research agenda that reflects the needs of low and middle-income countries. The four-day event will include plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, panel and working group discussions, and poster presentations. For further information visit:

http://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/alliancehpsr_symposiumbrochure_2010.pdf

Publications:

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