

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

NIGERIA - Following post-election violence in which an estimated 800 people were killed and 65,000 displaced, according to Human Rights Watch, state prosecutors need to follow through on arrests to try perpetrators and seek justice, rather than initiating new commissions of inquiry that will go nowhere, say civil society and human rights groups.

SOUTH AFRICA - With more than half its population unemployed, Khayelitsha is one of South Africa's largest and fastest-growing townships, and home to one of the highest burdens of HIV and TB infection nationally and globally. In 2009, antenatal HIV prevalence was 30 percent and the case notification rate for TB was at least 1,500 per 100,000 people annually – among the highest estimated TB incidence rates in the world.

UGANDA's Anti-Homosexuality Bill and HIV Prevention and Control Bill are likely to be carried over to the new session of parliament, despite international and local pressure.

ZAMBIA - An absence of boarding facilities for high school pupils in Zambia's northern province of Luapula is forcing children to share lodgings with their peers - unsupervised by adults - leading to teenage pregnancies and HIV/AIDS infections.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - Almost a million homes and businesses in rural Bangladesh have been outfitted with solar energy power sources, the World Bank says. The bank and other donors have backed government efforts to promote solar energy as a tool to simultaneously battle poverty and climate change.

MYANMAR - The government of Myanmar must release all of its estimated 2,200 political prisoners in order to move forward, and meet the needs of its people, according to a UN special envoy.

TURKMENISTAN - Human rights groups are publishing reports from Turkmenistan in advance of a meeting in Geneva of the UN Committee Against Torture, which is slated to review the rights record of the Central Asian country. The reports draw attention to a number of issues, among them an absence of political reform and the punishment of civil rights activists in disease-rife jails, psychiatric units and internal exile.

MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ - The Iraqi authorities are bracing for a possible influx of returnees from neighbouring countries affected by violent protests, especially Syria, and say hundreds have already returned from Libya.

WFWO's Communications Team