



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The UN objected to Australia's decision to freeze asylum applications for Afghans and Sri Lankans seeking to enter, instead corralling them at the geographically isolated Curtin Air Base in Western Australia. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees office expressed concern that the combination of suspended asylum, mandatory detention and remote location might prove psychically damaging to refugees - especially those who suffered trauma and other abuse.

UNITED NATIONS - Malaria Funding falls short of six billion dollar target - As African countries continue their relentless battle against the spread of malaria, a global fund to fight the deadly tropical disease has fallen short of expectations.

■AFRICA

ETHIOPIA - Almost a quarter of Addis Ababa residents have no access to toilets, says a new report by the Addis Ababa city authorities.

NIGERIA - Hundreds of Nigerians die every year at the hands of police and security forces as a result of torture, beatings and extrajudicial killings that often occur during chance encounters. Members of Nigeria's underpaid and poorly trained security forces rarely face any judicial repercussions for such incidents, a NGO said in a recent report.

SOUTHERN AFRICA - Competing for Limpopo water - Climate change will bring higher temperatures to Southern Africa while changing rainfall patterns will affect the amount of water available for food production.

■ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - Aid workers call for reopening of hospital in Helmand - The closure of the only hospital for war victims in Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan, is harming conflict-affected patients and should be reopened as soon as possible, aid workers say.

SRI LANKA - Healthcare services in Sri Lanka's conflict-affected east should not be forgotten as humanitarian agencies focus their efforts on rebuilding the country's north, the World Health Organization says.

THAILAND - Government supporters have threatened to take to Bangkok's streets in a direct challenge to the Red Shirts if government forces do not move to quash the anti-government demonstrators in one week. The Yellow Shirts came out in force during a series of crippling 2008 protests that toppled the government. Red Shirt demonstrators have now laid siege on the Bangkok streets for a month demanding Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva resign and call new elections.

■MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ - Hundreds of Sunni men detained by the Iraqi military during raids in Nineveh province in Iraq were imprisoned in a secret facility under the authority of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki - where many were tortured until the prison's existence was revealed. Critics of Maliki say that the special military units, which come with their own judges and interrogators, are a threat to democracy.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - More than 2 million earthquake-affected Haitians are still living in tents, on hillsides or under tarps as the rainy season begins. Aid efforts in the three months since the Jan. 12 earthquake have resulted in an accessible supply of food, water and medical attention. But the sheer scale of the housing problem and need to coordinate hundreds of aid agencies has left groups struggling to ensure the most at-risk residents locate alternative housing in time.

WFWO's Communications Team