

CAMBODIA RATES HIGHEST IN HIV INFECTION IN SEA

Health workers in Cambodia estimate that this country of 10 million now has the highest HIV infection rate in Southeast Asia and will post 400,000 AIDS cases by year 2000.

The estimate came from the latest HIV/AIDS survey which found the number of HIV-positive cases to be between 100,000 and 150,000, double the number recorded in November last year.

Annie Carry of the World Health Organization (WHO) noted, however, that the increase can be attributed more to better and more accurate testing than to an actual jump in the number of new cases.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer, 6 August 1996

CASTRATION OR DEATH FOR RAPISTS

LIMA, Peru — The Attorney General has proposed that rapists receive the death penalty or chemical castration, after police found the bodies of four young girls who were apparently raped and murdered. "Drastic punishment should be applied to rapists, such as the death penalty or castration," Blanca Nelida Colan said.

She added that the government will study the possibility of using California state legislature.

Peru's Constitution allows the death penalty only for treason during time of war.

The bodies of the four children, ages 7 to 13, were

found Tuesday in the town of Parcona, 280 km southeast of Lima, after residents came to the aid of another child who was screaming as her abductor tried to rape her.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer, 10 September 1996.

MOVEMENT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ESCALATES IN KOREA

The movement against domestic violence in Korea has intensified following an incident where an elderly woman found herself killing her son-in-law to stop the man's constant abuse of her daughter.

The Special Committee to Promote the Legislation of the Act to Prevent Domestic Violence, a coalition composed of the Korean Women's Associations United and 10 other organizations, is lobbying for legislation to prevent domestic violence.

The group is also demanding the release of Lee Sang-hee who killed her son-in-law for habitually abusing her daughter.

"This is an incident which made us realize the seriousness of domestic violence," the committee said. "The chief of the police station who did not dispatch police, although he received a report of the violence, should be held responsible, and the Act to Prevent Domestic Violence should be legislated immediately."

A campaign to collect signatures in support of the committee's demands has also been carried out.

As well, hearings have been

held and experts consulted on the draft of the Act to Prevent Domestic Violence prepared last May. The final bill was expected to be completed by July.

The Korea Women's Hotline also plans to hold a 'Citizens Forum for Families without Violence and a Society without Violence' in six major cities including Seoul.

Source: Korean Women Today, No. 51, Summer 1996

WORLDWIDE SUPPORT SPARES FILMMAKER FROM DEATH

A Chadian journalist-filmmaker living under a death *fatwa* because of her film on female genital mutilation believes an international campaign mounted in her support may have saved her life.

"If you hadn't stepped in, there would have been no reaction, and God knows what would have happened to me by now," Zara Yacoub wrote to the international solidarity network Women Living Under Muslim Laws. "Today I am convinced that the struggle for women's rights is an issue beyond national boundaries," she added.

Yacoub, who works for the Chadian state television station, had presented her film *Dilemme au feminin* during the "Women Empowering Communication" conference in Thailand in 1994 and in the 'World Congress in Communication for Human Dignity' organized by the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) in 1995 in Mexico City. The video's powerful images and

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