

Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights  
Boston University School of Public Health

## GLOBAL LAWYERS AND PHYSICIANS

JANUARY 1, 2008



2007 brought both **GLP** to a new level of international collaboration, and new initiatives in the U.S.

**GLP** worked in the U.S. assisting law firms on several amicus briefs on human rights issues concerning female genital mutilation and grounds for political asylum, reproductive rights and pregnant women prosecuted for substance use, and helped represent GTMO detainees on hunger strikes, and worked to hold perpetrators of torture accountable to international law. We also continued our program of workshops on military medical ethics which bring together human rights groups with retired and active-duty military physicians.

Internationally, **GLP** participated in educational programs in Germany, England, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and there are planned meetings for early 2008 in Cuba and Israel. **GLP** hosted visitors from South Africa, Israel, Democratic Republic of Congo, Netherlands, Holland, Nepal, India, Tibet, Bhutan, South Korea, Iraq and Iran. The Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights (**BCRHHR**), a project of **GLP**, actively cared for the medical, psychological, legal and social needs of 350 clients from more than 50 countries. **GLP** has continued collaborating with **PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS** in conducting forensic medical exams in Istanbul, Turkey of former Abu Ghraib detainees.

2008 will continue all of this work, but will also be a celebration of anniversaries: the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **BCRHHR**; 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of health law at Boston University and, of course, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A year of scholarly symposia, conferences and commemorations are planned.

## **BOSTON CENTER FOR REFUGEE HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS (BCRHHR)**

**BCRHHR** at Boston Medical Center, formed at the initiative of **GLP**, fills a serious gap in the healthcare safety net in New England by reaching out to survivors of torture, those seeking asylum, and traumatized refugees.

The **BCRHHR** was formed to serve as a focus for **GLP** advocacy on issues of refugee torture and humanitarian law. These high-risk populations often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and/or depression and typically need, but rarely receive, a complex set of medical and psychosocial services in order to successfully integrate into society. The **BCRHHR** currently provides a broad range of medical, legal, psychological and social services to survivors of torture and related trauma arrived in Boston and throughout the region.

The **BCRHHR** brings together the expertise of several clinical departments at Boston Medical Center including Psychiatry, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Ob/Gyn, Dental, and Primary Care. The **BCRHHR** also represents a collaboration of the Boston University Schools of Medicine, Public Health, Law, and Dentistry. In 2007, the Center served more than 450 clients from over 50 different countries this year including: Afghanistan, Bosnia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Congo, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tibet and Uganda. Ninety percent were survivors of torture. **BCRHHR** had a 98% success rate of clients being granted asylum.

The **BCRHHR** continues to be supported by the Volunteer Fund for Torture Victims and the Office for Refugee Resettlement, HHS grant "Treatment for Torture Victims," as well as by foundations and individual donations.

## **GUANTANAMO**

**GLP** continues to work with law firms representing detainees in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and is involved with medical record review, consultation on cases with military doctors, and preparation of affidavits for legal proceedings, primarily related to the physical and psychological impact of force feeding on hunger strikers.

## COURSES

For the past nine years George Annas and Michael Grodin have taught a **Human Rights and Health** course at the Boston University School of Public Health. In 2007, Prof. Annas and Dr. Grodin were joined by Asst. Prof. Candace Miller of the BUSPH International Health department. **GLP** continues to advocate that others incorporate health and human rights into their curricula.

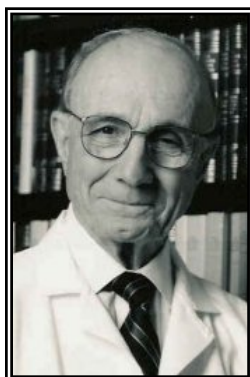
The course syllabus is posted at [www.glphr.org/IHHRsyllabus07.doc](http://www.glphr.org/IHHRsyllabus07.doc). Comments are welcome.

## CONFERENCES

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Health Law Conference **The Nuremberg Doctors' Trial: 60 years Later**

An all day conference was held on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 on the impact of the Nuremberg Code on international and U.S. law regarding human experimentation and the role of physicians in euthanasia of people with disabilities and the new eugenics. The role of military physicians in the "global war on terror" particularly in prison settings, was examined. View the video of the conference [www.bu.edu/law/events/audio-video/nuremberg.html](http://www.bu.edu/law/events/audio-video/nuremberg.html).

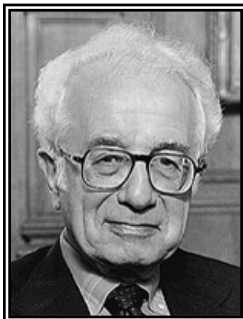
Keynote speaker was Dr. Edmund Pellegrino whose talk was "On Human Dignity."



*Edmund Pellegrino, M.D.*

Dr. Pellegrino is the chair of the President's Council on Bioethics and a member of **GLP's** Board of Advisors.

Also at this conference, the Boston University Pike Prize for service to people with disabilities was awarded to Jay Katz, M.D. Dr. Katz is the author of the leading text on human experimentation, **EXPERIMENTATION WITH HUMAN BEINGS** (1972), and a member of **GLP's** board of advisors.



*Jay Katz, M.D.*

### American Public Health Association 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting **Policy, Politics and Public Health**

The 2007 Annual Meeting was held in Washington, D.C. from November 3<sup>rd</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>.

On November 5, 2007 George Annas spoke on, **Civil Liberties and Public Health Preparedness**, in a session on **Terrorism and Public Health**; and on **How (& Why) to Reform US and Global Research Rules**, in a session on **Human Rights in Research**.

### Annual Meeting of the BIO International Convention **Biotechnology, Medicine, and Human Rights**

In May 2007, the Annual Meeting of the BIO International Convention was held in Boston.

George Annas spoke at the Biojustice Protest Forum on **Biotechnology, Medicine, and Human Rights**, (on a panel which also featured the head of *Our Bodies Ourselves*, Judy Norsigian) and at the BIO conference itself on **Human Rights and Biotechnology**, on a panel put together by **GLP** member Gary Cohen. According to the *Boston Phoenix*, Annas held the distinction of “being the only person to address BioJustice and BIO 2007 audiences.” Asked to comment on the appearance at the BIO International Convention of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, Annas is quoted as saying, “Nationally, the politics have been very favorable to the industry. Dissatisfaction with the Bush administration’s effort to restrict embryonic stem cell research, cuts across class and party lines. If you have a choice between the Bush administration and biotech, it’s not a hard choice, even for liberals.” (*Boston Phoenix*, May 18, 2007, p.9.)

Second Biennial Seminar in Health Law and Bioethics  
**Law and Ethics in Rationing Access to Care in a High-cost Global Economy**

This seminar examined key legal and ethical principles that govern access to care and how such principles relate to the broader principles of human rights. Speakers included faculty from Boston University's Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights, International Health Law, and The Discipline of Health Law, Ethics and Biolaw, The National School of Public Health, New University of Lisbon.

Speakers and their topics can be seen at [www.glphr.org/Lisbon Agenda 2007.pdf](http://www.glphr.org/Lisbon%20Agenda%202007.pdf).

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

### Nazi Doctors, Racial Hygiene and Eugenics Care of Holocaust Survivors

In July, 2007 Michael Grodin traveled to Warsaw, Krakow, Budapest, Prague, London and Berlin giving these talks.



Tiergarten Strasse Vier  
(T-4) Memorial



Arbeit Macht Frei (*Work Brings Freedom*)  
Sign over entrance to Auschwitz Concentration Camp.



Block 10 at Auschwitz Concentration Camp  
Human medical experiments were performed in this barrack.



Dr. Christian Pross, Berlin  
Medical Director of the Berlin Center for the Treatment of  
Torture Victims and advisory board member of GLP.

### Psychoanalytically Informed Care for Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma

Michael A. Grodin, MD  
American Psychoanalytic Society, September 27, 2007

## **The Legacy of the Nuremberg Doctors' Trial to American Bioethics and Human Rights**

George J. Annas

Houston Holocaust Museum, November 13, 2007.



*Houston Holocaust Museum*

## **Mad, Bad, or Evil: How Physicians Turn to Torture and Murder, from the Nazi Doctors to Abu Ghraib**

Michael A. Grodin, MD

Houston Holocaust Museum, December 11, 2007

## **Medical Ethics and the Holocaust**

George J. Annas

University of Maine at Augusta and The Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine, October 19, 2007

Read more at [www.uma.edu/medethicssymposium.html](http://www.uma.edu/medethicssymposium.html)

## **The UDHR and Its Relevance to Science**

George J. Annas

AAAS Science and Human Rights Program  
International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2007

Read more at [www.glyphr.org/AAAShumanrights.doc](http://www.glyphr.org/AAAShumanrights.doc).

## HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS

**International Human Rights Day** this year commemorated the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed this document. A copy of the document can be seen on [www.glphr.org/univldec.htm](http://www.glphr.org/univldec.htm). **BCRHHR** and the Health and Human Rights Student Caucus commemorated this date with a reading of the declaration by **BCRHHR staff** and creative representations of each of the articles.

See more at [www.glphr.org/Int Human Rights Flyer 2007.pdf](http://www.glphr.org/Int Human Rights Flyer 2007.pdf).

**A Night of Remembrance and Rejoicing** took place the evening of June 19, 2007. The honored guest speaker was Alagi Yorro Jallow, exiled managing editor of Gambia's *The Independent Newspaper*. The keynote speaker was Joshua Rubenstein, the Northeast Regional Director of *Amnesty International USA* and author of books on 20<sup>th</sup> Century Russian and Russian Jewish history. This was followed by the Obunto Award to the Boston Medical Center Food Pantry and Demonstration Kitchen [www.glphr.org/ObuntoFoodPantry.doc](http://www.glphr.org/ObuntoFoodPantry.doc). To see the announcement of the gala go to [www.glphr.org/BCRHHRgala.pdf](http://www.glphr.org/BCRHHRgala.pdf).

## OTHER VOICES

The Health and Human Rights Caucus on October 29, 2007 hosted **Juan Melendez: An Innocent Man's Remarkable Story of Survival on Death Row**.

The presentation by Mr. Melendez highlighted pervasive and endemic problems with the death penalty. For more details go to [www.glphr.org/juan melendez.pdf](http://www.glphr.org/juan melendez.pdf).

## AMICUS BRIEFS

**GLP** website now provides copies of its amicus briefs. Read them at [www.glphr.org/amicusbriefs.htm](http://www.glphr.org/amicusbriefs.htm).



## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **The Right to Health**

Annas GJ. **Cancer and the Constitution – Choice at Life’s End.** NEJM, 357:408-413 (2007). Read the article [www.glphr.org/cancerNEJM.pdf](http://www.glphr.org/cancerNEJM.pdf).

Annas GJ. **The Supreme Court and Abortion Rights.** NEJM, 356: 2201-2207 (2007). Read the article [www.glphr.org/NEJMabortionrights.pdf](http://www.glphr.org/NEJMabortionrights.pdf)

### **War and Human Rights**

Annas GJ. **Human Rights Outlaws: Nuremberg, Geneva, and the Global War on Terror.** 87 Boston University Law Review 427-466 (2007). Read this article [www.glphr.org/Human Rights Outlaws.pdf](http://www.glphr.org/Human Rights Outlaws.pdf).

Annas GJ & Geiger J. **War and Human Rights.** (in) Barry S. Levy & Victor Sidel, eds., **WAR AND PUBLIC HEALTH**, 2d ed (Oxford U Press, NY) 37-50 (2008).

Crosby S, Apovian CM, Grodin MA. **Hunger Strikes, Force-feeding, and Physicians Responsibilities.** JAMA, 298: 563-566 (2007). Read [www.glphr.org/JAMA Hunger Strikes.pdf](http://www.glphr.org/JAMA Hunger Strikes.pdf).

Grodin M & Annas GJ. **Physicians and Torture: From Nazi Germany to the “Global War on Terror.”** Intl Rev Red Cross, 89 (2007)

Crosby S, Mashour G, Grodin M, Jiang Y, Osterman J. **Emergence Flashback in a Patient with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.** Genl Hospital Psych 29:169-171 (2007). Read the article [www.glphr.org/emergenceflashback.pdf](http://www.glphr.org/emergenceflashback.pdf).

Levison J, Grodin M, Crosby S. **The Hunger Striker: Physicians Advocacy at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.** Soc Genl Int Med (Abstract) (2007).

### **Public Health and Human Rights**

Annas GJ. **Your Liberty or Your life: Public Health Versus Civil Liberties.** EMBO, 8: 1093-1098 (2007). Read the article [www.glphr.org/EMBO.pdf](http://www.glphr.org/EMBO.pdf).

Crosby S, & Grodin M. **Ethical Considerations in Crisis and Humanitarian Interventions: The View from Home.** *Ethics & Behavior*, 17: 203-205 (2007). Read the article [www.glphr.org/ethicalconsiderations.pdf](http://www.glphr.org/ethicalconsiderations.pdf).

Wing K, Mariner W, Annas G & Strouse D. **PUBLIC HEALTH LAW**, Lexis/Nexis (2007). (See especially chapter 8, “(Bio)Terrorism”, which includes a section on global health.)

## **SUPPORT**

Your support of **GLP** will help our effort to provide information and resources about human rights and health; to serve as a network and referral source for professions working on health-related human rights/issues; to assist in developing, implementing and advocating public policies to protect and enhance human rights, and health. **GLP** supporters receive communications about our current projects and global concerns. Additionally, as a supporter of **GLP** there are numerous opportunities to contribute your time and talents to **GLP** projects. **GLP's** accomplishments are almost exclusively the product of our volunteers. Please visit our website at [www.glphr.org/support.htm](http://www.glphr.org/support.htm) or email us at [glp@bu.edu](mailto:glp@bu.edu) for further information.

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