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GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

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Delays in renaming prisons explained: IOL reported that the Department of Correctional Services had said that the process of renaming some of the country's prisons is still on track, despite the delays in the announcement of the new names. The delays were reportedly attributed to the amount of work involved in processing the suggested names. Reported by Bheki Mbanjwa, 16 August 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/news/prisons-renaming-delays-explained-1.1118136>

National Treasury refuses to endorse expenditure: Times Live reported that National Treasury had refused to endorse the expenditure of the Department of Correctional Services for the period 2008-2009 after it was discovered that it had incurred unauthorised expenditure of R483 million. The shortfall will reportedly have "serious implications" for the Department. Reported by Thabo Mokone, 18 August 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2011/08/18/treasury-at-war-with-jail-bosses>

Officer in sex video dismissed: Times Live reported that a correctional services officer based at Krugersdorp Correctional Centre was dismissed for having had sex with a female police officer and recording the incident on video tape. The two officers were on duty at the time of the incident. Reported by Times Live, 31 August 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2011/08/31/officer-in-sex-video-dismissed>

PRISON CONDITIONS

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Rehabilitation of inmates prioritised: Times Live reported that the Department of Correctional Services will be introducing new rehabilitation programmes. The plan reportedly includes the introduction of pre-release centres and the establishment of specialised units conducive to the care of the children of inmates. Reported by Chandré Prince, 5 August 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2011/08/05/new-plan-to-rehabilitate-offenders>

New mental facility in Northern Province: The New Age reported that mental patients in correctional facilities will benefit from the construction of a mental health hospital in the Northern Cape Province. As is the case with other provinces, the Department of Health in the Northern Cape is obliged to receive mental patients within 28 days of them having been referred by the court. Reported by Ishmael Modiba, 17 August 2011, at http://www.thenewage.co.za/26033-1015-53-Help_for_mental_patients

Relief for babies behind bars: Times Live reported that a new mother and baby unit at Pollsmoor Prison has been opened, catering specifically to the needs of female prisoners with babies. Reported by Times Live, 19 August 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2011/08/19/relief-for-babies-behind-bars>

PAROLE AND SENTENCING

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Female prisoners set free: The Citizen reported that 44 female prisoners around the country were to be released from prison. The report quotes the Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, Ngoako Ramathlodi, as saying that the prisoners will be released under parole conditions. Reported by Puleng Mashabane, 8 August 2011, at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=216027&sn=Detail&pid=146826&Female-prisoners-to-walk->

Prisoner denied parole: The Mail and Guardian reported that convicted murderer of Chris Hani, Clive Derby-Lewis, plans to challenge the Department of Correctional Services' decision not to grant him parole. The Department has also reportedly denied parole to Janus Walusz, his accomplice in the Hani murder. Reported by the Mail and Guardian, 26 August 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-08-26-derbylewis-to-challenge-parole-denial/>

Early parole for prisoners: Times Live reported that the Pretoria High Court had delivered a decision which could result in 5000 prisoners currently serving life sentences being considered for parole. The judgment states that prisoners serving life imprisonment who were sentenced before the coming into force of various provisions in the Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998, were entitled to the benefit of the "credit system" just like other inmates serving determinate sentences. Reported by Times Live, 28 August 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2011/08/28/early-parole-beckons-for-killers>

UNSENTENCED PRISONERS

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Unaffordable bail blamed for overcrowding: Sowetan Live reported that 1000 remand detainees are being held in prisons because they are unable to pay bail. Unaffordable bail amounts are reportedly one of the reasons why many remand facilities are severely overcrowded. Reported by Sibongile Mashaba, 11 August 2011, at <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2011/08/11/prisons-over-crowded-because-suspects-can-t-pay-bail>

White Paper on remand detention: IOL reported that the Minister of Correctional Services blamed

"bureaucracy" for the delays in unveiling the Department's White Paper on Remand Detention. A legal official in the Department, Loyiso Jafta, had reportedly said that additional funding was necessary to finalize the editing process. Reported by Jeremy Gordin, 22 August 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/saturday-star/awaiting-trial-detainees-stepchildren-of-the-system-1.1122882>

Concern over delays in laboratory results: IOL reported that more than 66 000 toxicology and alcohol tests are outstanding across South Africa. The delays in processing the samples are reportedly linked to the fact that there are only three forensic chemistry laboratories throughout South Africa. The delays in laboratory results are reportedly causing delays in criminal trials around the country. Reported by Warda Meyer and Henriette Geldenhuys, 28 August 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/western-cape/court-nightmare-over-lab-backlog-1.1126364>

EXTRADITION

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Dewani faces extradition: Business Day reported that Judge Howard Riddle of the Westminster Magistrate's Court in London had ruled in favour of the South African government's application to extradite Shrien Dewani to face charges linked to the murder of his wife. Reported by Business Day, 12 August 2011, at <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=150577>

ESCAPES

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Prisoner walks out of court: The BBC reported that one of South Africa's most wanted crime suspects, Bongani Moyo, a Zimbabwe national, escaped by walking out of court. The suspect was due to go on trial for his role in the robbery of 35 banks. Reported by the BBC, 11 August 2011, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14476421>

Officials suspended after prisoner escape: IOL reported that four police officers were suspended in connection with the escape of a prisoner, Bongani Moyo. Reported by IOL, 18 August 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/officers-suspended-after-moyo-escape-1.1120890>

OTHER

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Prison official accused of sexual harassment: The Sunday World reported that allegations of sexual harassment had been made against a senior management official at Potchefstroom Prison. Reported by Mzwandile Kabizokwakhe, 7 August 2011, at <http://www.sundayworld.co.za/Home/Article.aspx?id=1208384>

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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ALGERIA

Feeding scheme unchanged during Ramadan: L'Expression reported that the feeding scheme in Algerian prisons is only barely adapted to the specific dietary requirements of prisoners fasting during the holy month of Ramadan. The article also reported on the general feeding scheme of Algeria's detention facilities, pointing to its inadequacies. A former prisoner testified that he lost teeth while in detention because of the food that was served. Original report in French. Reported by Amar Chekar, 15 August 2011, at <http://www.lexpressiondz.com/actualite/137369-la-bouffe-du-bagnard.html>

BENIN

Benin closer to abolishing the death penalty: Sierra Express reported that Benin has taken an important step towards abolishing the death penalty after the country's National Assembly voted in favour of ratifying an international treaty banning capital punishment. Reported by Sierra Express, 20 August 2011, at <http://www.sierraexpressmedia.com/archives/28283>

BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso police imprisoned: The BBC reported that two police officers have been sentenced to ten years imprisonment in connection with their role in the February 2011 death of student, Justin Zongo, who died in police custody. Reported by the BBC, 24 August 2011, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14645746>

BURUNDI

Justice system questioned: Slate reported that on 25 July 2011, French citizen Patrick Faye was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment by the Bujumbura Court of Appeal for the rape of a minor. The report raises several questions surrounding the trial, which lasted 5 hours, took place in camera and in a language the accused reportedly could not speak. Faye is reportedly appealing the decision. Original report in French. Reported by Ekia Badou, 18 August 2011, at <http://www.slateafrique.com/26905/burundi-patrice-faye-justice-viols>

CAMEROON

Hygiene in Cameroonian prison leads to illness and death: Jade Cameroun reported that prisons in Cameroon are in a poor state and that as a result, illness and death are rife. The report recalls the obligation to ensure proper sanitation and medical treatment for prisoners, as laid out in Rules 13 and 22(2) of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Original report in French. Reported by Théodore Tchopa and Charles Nforgan, 1 August 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=196>

No separation of detainees in Douala police cells: Jade Cameroun reported that the majority of police cells throughout Douala fail to adequately separate male detainees from females. Following his visit to Cameroon in 1999, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture also stressed the need for improved conditions and the separation of categories. Certain police stations have since then reportedly been equipped with additional and better equipped cells. Original report in French. Reported by Christian Locka, 2 August 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=197>

Illegal arms trade in prisons: Jade Cameroun reported that many weapons are circulating among Cameroonian prisoners. Weapons are reportedly smuggled into the prisons by visitors, often with the knowledge of prison officials. Original report in French. Reported by Hugo Tatchuam and Charles Nforgan, 9 August 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=198>

Men detained for homosexuality: Star Africa reported that Amnesty International have appealed to

Cameroonian authorities to release two young men due to stand trial on 18 August 2011 on charges of homosexuality. The international human rights organisation also called for the repeal of Section 347a of the Cameroonian Penal Code which criminalises homosexuality. Reported by Star Africa, 15 August 2011, at <http://www.starafrica.com/en/news/detail-news/view/cameroon-men-detained-for-homosexualit-183889.html>

COTE D'IVOIRE

Minister officiates at reopening of prison: The Washington Post reported that Abidjan prison was re-opened on 16 August 2011 after having been refurbished. The report said that 16 detainees had been transferred from a military camp to the newly renovated prison. Reported by the Washington Post, 16 August 2011, at http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/ivory-coast-reopens-prison-closed-for-months-after-postelection-violence-mass-prison-break/2011/08/16/gIQAQAWTJJ_story.html

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Eight prisoners transferred to Makala Central Prison: Radio Okapi reported that eight prisoners were transferred from Kindu to Kinshasa on 3 August 2011. The transfer followed the reported outbreak of unrest and riots in Kindu prison on 19 July 2011. Original report in French. Reported by Radio Okapi, 4 August 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2011/08/04/kindu-8-prisonniers-transferes-a-la-prison-centrale-de-makala/>

Escapees from prison intimidating magistrates: Le Potentiel reported that magistrates in the city of Beni in the North-Kivu province have threatened to go on strike if the provincial authorities continue to fail to guarantee their safety. The door of the central prison of Kangwayé has reportedly been missing for six months, which has allowed numerous prisoners to escape, including some who were convicted of serious offences and who have reportedly been threatening magistrates. Original report in French. Reported by Stephane Etinga, 9 August 2011, at <http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201108090393.html>

Five remand detainees released from Kisangani detention centres: Radio Okapi reported that five remand detainees, including one child, were released from different detention centres across Kisangani on 11 August 2011 following a round of visits by judges and prosecutors. The visits were organised in order to verify the lawfulness of detention of the awaiting trial detainees. Original report in French. Reported by Radio Okapi, 12 August 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2011/08/12/province-orientale-5-personnes-liberees-des-cachots-de-kisangani/>

EGYPT

Five men sentenced to death: News24 reported that an Egyptian military court sentenced five men to death after they were convicted of murder and robbery. Reported by News24, 18 August 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Egypt-military-sentences-5-to-hang-20110817>

Riots in military prison contained: The Ahram Online reported that inmates had set fire to the military Hike Step Prison in protest of what they reportedly said were unfair trials in military courts. Reported by Ahram Online, 23 August 2011, at <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/19558/Egypt/Politics-/Riots-in-military-prison-contained,-says-army-offi.aspx>

Shoot to kill policy: The Daily News Egypt reported that prison authorities in Egypt are accused of carrying out a shoot-to-kill policy against prisoners who attempt to escape. The report added that a report issued in April 2011 by an official fact-finding commission estimated that 189 prisoners had been killed and 263 injured since 25 January 2011. Reported by Dalia Rabie, 25 August 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/crime-a-accidents/shoot-to-kill-report-reveals-systematic-killing-of-prisoners-during-and-after-january-uprising.html>

ETHIOPIA

Abuse of detention in Ethiopia: The Jurist published a column in which the author criticises the Ethiopian government for using the war on terror to maintain its power by labeling opposition groups, journalists and others as terrorists and detaining them under "suspicious circumstances." Reported by Abigail Salisbury, 2 August 2011, at <http://jurist.org/forum/2011/08/abigail-salisbury-ethiopia-terror.php>

GHANA

Prisoners advised to acquire skills: Ghana News Agency reported that the Deputy Minister of Communications has advised prisoners to use their time in jail to undergo Information Communication Technology training at laboratories which are now available in prisons across the country. Reported by Ghana News Agency, 11 August 2011, at <http://www.ghananewsagency.org/details/Social/Prisoners-asked-to-use-time-in-prison-to-learn-ICT/?ci=4&ai=32253>

Prisons overcrowded: Peace fm reported that remand prisons across the country are severely overcrowded and are forced to accommodate far more prisoners than what they were designed to accommodate. Reported by Peace On Line, 23 August 2011, at <http://news.peacefmonline.com/social/201108/64740.php>

GUINEA

Activists pardoned: The BBC reported that President Alpha Conde had pardoned 17 opposition activists imprisoned for having taken part in an illegal rally in April 2011. The gesture was reportedly aimed at promoting reconciliation after divisive elections last year. Reported by Alhassan Sillah, 16 August 2011, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14545520>

LIBYA

Evidence of detainees massacred revealed: The National Post reported that evidence has been found indicating that Gaddafi forces massacred dozens of detainees. Forty five skeletons and two bodies were found burnt beyond recognition at the makeshift prison in Salaheddin. Reported by the Nation Post, 29 August 2011, at <http://news.nationalpost.com/2011/08/29/evidence-of-libya-detainee-massacre-human-rights-watch/>

KENYA

Call for the abolition of the death penalty: allAfrica.com reported that three magistrates being considered for the bench have spoken about the need to abolish the death penalty. All three candidates reportedly said that the death penalty violated Article 26 of the Constitution which guarantees the right to life. Reported by Paul Ogemba, 4 August 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201108050016.html>

Uganda rendition criticised: Capital FM reported that the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights has criticised the Kenyan government for failing to show its commitment to protecting the rights of Kenyans currently detained in Uganda on terrorism charges. Reported by Lordrich Mayabi, 4 August 2011, at <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2011/08/04/kenyan-officials-slammed-over-uganda-renditions/>

Prisoners freed: allAfrica.com reported that on 11 August 2011 the High Court in Embu released 177 inmates imprisoned for petty offences in Embu and Kerugoya prisons. The release is reportedly part of a strategy to decongest correctional facilities. Reported by Reuben Githinji, 12 August 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201108120528.html>

Inmates request conjugal rights: allAfrica.com reported that inmates at Malindi Prison have asked the government to grant them their conjugal rights. Reported by Alphonse Gari, 23 August 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201108240851.html>

MADAGASCAR

Four die in prison: IOL reported that four prisoners died during a mass attempt to escape from a prison in southern Madagascar. Those re-captured were returned to prison where stricter security measures have reportedly been implemented. Reported by IOL, 13 August 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/four-die-in-attempted-prison-escape-1.1116979>

MALAWI

Prison officials accused of abusing funds: Nysa Times reported that prison officials at the Central Region Prison Office have stolen MK1.5 million from the Treasury by allocating each other non-existent allowances and invoicing false claims. Reported by Andrew Nyayah, 21 August 2011, at <http://www.nyasatimes.com/national/prison-officers-pounce-on-mk1-5m-funding/>

MAURITANIA

Anti-slavery activists imprisoned: The Mail and Guardian reported that anti-slavery activists have been sentenced to three months imprisonment for attempting to "bring to attention the plight of a ten-year old girl held as a slave." Reported by The Mail and Guardian, 22 August 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-08-22-mauritanian-activist-jailed-after-antislavery-protest>

Calls made to revoke the sentence of imprisonment of anti-slavery activists: Joyonline reported that Amnesty International has made calls for authorities in Mauritania to revoke prison sentences given to four anti-slavery activists who protested against the enslavement of a ten-year old girl. Amnesty International reportedly stated that "the draconian response to the work of these activists suggests that the Mauritanian authorities are trying to cover up the fact that slavery takes place in the country." Reported by Myjoyonline.com, 25 August 2011, at <http://world.myjoyonline.com/pages/africa/201108/71640.php>

MOROCCO

King inaugurates reintegration centre: The MAP reported that HM King Mohammed VI has inaugurated the Marrakech post-prison support and reintegration centre. The centre is part of a bigger strategy to support and reintegrate former prisoners back into society. Reported by Maghreb Arabe Presse, 23 August 2011, at http://www.map.ma/eng/sections/main1/hm_the_king_inaugura7908/view

MOZAMBIQUE

Prison guards dismissed: Club of Mozambique reported that Mozambican authorities have dismissed 34 prison guards for accepting bribes and helping 74 inmates to escape. Reported by Club of Mozambique, 12 August 2011, at <http://www.clubofmozambique.com/solutions1/sectionnews.php?secao=mozambique&id=22566&tipo=one>

NIGERIA

Prisoners escape: Reuters reported that seven inmates escaped from a prison in Port Harcourt on 7 August 2011 by using their metal beds as ladders to climb over the walls. Police reportedly described two of the prisoners still unaccounted for as "dangerous criminals and notorious militants". Reported by Reuters, 8 August 2011, at <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE7700I20110808>

Legislation to protect prisoners: The Tribune reported that the state governor for Lagos, Mr. Babatunde Fashola, signed into law legislation that will protect prisoners from "harassment and dehumanisation." One of

the provisions in the legislation "gives room for compensation, restitution and community service instead of outright imprisonment for minor offenders." Reported by Kunle Awosiyan, 9 August 2011, at <http://www.tribune.com.ng/index.php/news/26360-fashola-signs-into-law-bills-to-protect-debtorsprisoners> -

Prison transfer agreements raised in Senate: The Daily Independent reported that a Bill purporting to regulate prisoner transfer agreements has been introduced into the Senate Chamber. The report said that there are currently 16 000 Nigerian prisoners serving their sentences in the United Kingdom. Reported by Sola Shittu, 18 August 2011, at <http://www.independentngonline.com/DailyIndependent/Article.aspx?id=38118>

Governor commutes death sentences: Sun News reported that State Governor Ibrahim Shema commuted the death sentences of eight prisoners to life imprisonment. Reported by Andy Asemota, 21 August 2011, at <http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2011/aug/21/national-21-08-2011-005.html>

Release of prisoners ordered: Sun News reported that President Goodluck Jonathan has ordered that all members of the Movement for the Actualisation of a Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) held in prisons across the country be released. There are reportedly more than 1000 MASSOB activists currently detained. Reported by Chidi Nnadi and Petrus Obi, 30 August 2011, at <http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2011/aug/30/national-30-08-2011-007.html>

RWANDA

Prison officials to sign performance contracts: allAfrica.com reported that employees of the Rwanda Correctional Services will be signing performance contracts in a bid to improve efficiency. Reported by allAfrica.com, 20 August 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201108220667.html>

Prison facilities fitted with bio-gas equipment: allAfrica.com reported that Rwandan prisons will soon be more environmentally friendly following the installation of "bio-gas plants". The report quoted the Deputy Commissioner General of the Rwandan Correctional Services as saying, "We have finished installing bio gas plants in all the prisons, which accounts for 75 per cent of the energy needs. The rest is covered by peat energy and a small amount of firewood." Reported by allAfrica.com, 31 August 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201108310036.html>

SOMALIA

Somali pirates receive heavy sentences: IOL reported that a Dutch court has sentenced two Somali pirates to seven and six years imprisonment respectively for their role in abducting two South Africans off a yacht in the Seychelles in 2010. Reported by IOL, 12 August 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/pirates-jailed-for-sa-couple-s-abduction-1.1116843>

SWAZILAND

Non-custodial sentences get thumbs up: The Observer reported that Department of Correctional Services Commissioner, Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase, has commended the use of non-custodial measures such as community service, noting that they cost less to implement. Reported by Sibusisiwe Ngozo, the Observer, 12 August 2011, at <http://www.observer.org.sz/index.php?news=28517>

TANZANIA

Commitment to decongest prisons: Ipp media reported that the Ministries of Home Affairs and Constitutional Affairs and Justice were working hand in hand to reduce congestion in the country's prisons. One

of the measures reportedly proposed is to speed up criminal case processing in the country's courts, since delayed trials contribute to prison overcrowding. Reported by Lydia Shekighenda, 12 August 2011, at <http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=32189>

Minister warns prison officials: The Citizen reported that the Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Shamsi Vuai Nahodha, has warned prison officials that if caught engaging in corrupt activities they will be "relieved of their job." The announcement is reportedly part of the zero tolerance policy against corruption. Reported by Songwa Songwa, 15 August 2011, at <http://thecitizen.co.tz/news/-/13760-nahodhas-notice-to-corrupt-officers>

TUNISIA

Tunisia ratifies Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture: The Association for the Prevention of Torture has congratulated Tunisia on its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture at the end of June 2011, opening the possibility for independent mechanisms to visit detention centres. Considering the peculiar situation of the country, APT called on Tunisia to set up a National Preventive Mechanism as quickly as possible, in consultation with civil society. Original report in French. Available at http://www.apr.ch/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=1105:tunisie-cdp&lang=en

UGANDA

Legislators decry torture and detention without trial: allAfrica.com reported that Members of Parliament have condemned the torture and detention without trial of suspects by the Kireka-based Rapid Response Unit (RRU), describing their actions as "inhuman." Reported by Isaac Imaka, 5 August 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201108050008.html>

Radio presenter faces death penalty: Star Africa reported that Reporters without Borders is concerned about Augustine Okello, a presenter for Radio Rhino FM in the northern city of Lira, who has been remanded in Kampala's Luzira prison. The presenter, accused of treason, has reportedly told journalists that he has been tortured. If convicted of treason, Okello could be sentenced to the death. Reported by Star Africa.com, 10 August 2011, at <http://www.starafrika.com/en/news/detail-news/view/uganda-radio-presenter-facing-possibly-183016.html>

Government envisages influx of prisoners: New Vision reported that authorities in Uganda are anticipating an influx of prisoners as a result of what they called "riots and terrorism activities" gripping the country. The daily average population is projected to be 34,224 for the year 2011/2012 according to the Commissioner General of Prisons, Johnson Byabashaija. Reported by Catherine Bekunda, 11 August 2011, at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/12/762420>

Man wins deportation reprieve: The Portsmouth News reported that a man facing deportation to Uganda won an "eleventh-hour reprieve." Robert Segwanyi, a citizen of Uganda currently in the United Kingdom, argued that he was gay and would be imprisoned and tortured for his sexuality if he was deported to Uganda. Reported by Portsmouth News, 11 August 2011, at http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/politics/portsmouth_man_wins_deportation_reprieve_1_2951999

Government to fast track anti-bail law: The Monitor reported that the government would be meeting a team of legal experts on 15 August 2011 to fast track the drafting of the proposed anti-bail law. The proposed legislation requires that suspects facing charges of rape, rioting and economic sabotage be denied bail until having spent at least six months in custody. Reported by the Monitor, 15 August 2011, at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1219010/-/bkensuz/-/index.html>

Protests against anti-bail legislation: The Monitor reported that the Uganda Law Society had assembled a team of lawyers from East Africa to contest the anti-bail proposal which will soon be tabled before the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs. Human rights groups are quoted as saying that the proposed legislation is part of a plan by government to curtail civil liberties. Reported by Richard Wanambwa, 16 August

2011, at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1219664/-/bkeiykz/-/>

Death penalty is "cheap revenge": James Lutaaya wrote a piece for The Observer criticizing the death penalty. He states that it "does not achieve the rehabilitation of an offender nor serves as a deterrent." As of December 2006, Uganda reportedly has 566 death row inmates. Reported by James Lutaaya, 21 August 2011, at http://www.observer.ug/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14814:death-penalty-just-cheap-revenge&catid=37:guest-writers&Itemid=66

ZAMBIA

Prisons construct milling plant: The Times reported that the Zambia Prisons Service is constructing a milling plant worth USD1.5 billion in Kabwe to ensure prisoners are provided with adequate food. The report quotes Zambia Prisons Service Commissioner Percy Chato as saying that the construction of the milling plant had reached an "advanced stage." Reported by Chrystal Musonda, 12 August 2011, at http://www.times.co.zm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=984:-prisons-construct-k15bn-milling-plant&catid=36:local-news&Itemid=27

ZIMBABWE

Death penalty criticised: The Herald reported that legal experts and some religious leaders had called for the abolition of the death penalty, describing it as "irrational and extreme." Reported by Daniel Nemukuyu, 3 August 2011, at http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17301:scrap-death-penalty-say-legal-experts&catid=37:top-stories&Itemid=130

Prisoners lack basic necessities: The Zimbabwean reported that a senior ZANU PF official, Mai Pangwayi, has condemned conditions in prisons. She was quoted as saying that "not much was being done to improve the quality of the lives of prisoners." Reported by the Zimbabwean, 3 August 2011, at http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/news/zimbabwe/51450/prisoners-shave-with-broken-glass.html?utm_source=thezim&utm_medium=homepage&utm_campaign=listarticle&utm_content=headinglink

Torture camp discovered: The BBC reported that a torture camp run by Zimbabwe's security forces is operating in the country's rich Marange diamond fields. Miners suspected of illegal mining activities allege widespread torture and rape on the part of the security forces. Reported by Hilary Andersson, 8 August 2011, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14377215>

Minister sues for illegal detention: The Standard reported that Jameson Timba, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office, is demanding US\$250 000 in damages from Police Commissioner- General Augustine Chihuri who reportedly detained him for calling the incumbent President a "liar" in June 2011. The Minister highlights the fact that he was detained at a facility described by the Supreme Court as "unfit for human beings". Reported by Kholwani Nyathi, 14 August 2011, at <http://www.thestandard.co.zw/local/31088-minister-timba-demands-us250-000-from-chihuri.html>

Diet improves for prisoners: The Africa Report reported that Zimbabwean authorities have committed to improving the diet of prisoners in 42 prisons across the country. This initiative follows the publication of a new diet in the Government Gazette by the Ministry of Justice. Reported by the Africa Report, 30 August 2011, at <http://www.theafricareport.com/archives2/society-a-culture/5170800-early-christmas-for-zimbabwes-prisoners.html>

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