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Unnecessary expenses linked with prison name changes: The Beeld newspaper reported that eleven prisons are to be renamed despite criticism that the Department of Correctional Services can ill afford to implement such changes. Minister Nqakula reportedly stated that, over time, all 240 correctional institutions in the country will be renamed. The purported changes, should, according to her, inspire prisoners and personnel of the Department. *Original report in Afrikaans.* Reported by Lizel Steenkamp, 23 January 2011, Beeld at <http://www.beeld.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Minister-wil-alle-tronke-herdoop-20110123>

Public Protector to investigate complaints against Minister: Mapisa-Nqakula IOL reported that Public Protector, Thuli Madonsela, was in the process of investigating three separate complaints against Minister Mapisa-Nqakula and National Commissioner of Correctional Services, Tom Moyane. The complaints allege that Mapisa-Nqakula and Moyane victimised staff, which included the use of "apartheid style interrogation." The most recent complaint received is that of Alfred Tsetsane, Chief Deputy Commissioner of Corporate Services, who has allegedly complained that the Minister and Moyane used foul language when communicating with him. Reported by Gcwalisile Khanyile, 30 January 2011, IOL at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/ministers-accused-of-abuse-1.1018743>

The Department of Correctional Services denies allegations of victimisation: News24 reported that

Manelisi Wolela, spokesperson for the Department of Correctional Services, has described allegations of employee victimisation by Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula and National Commissioner of Correctional Services, Tom Moyane, as "devoid of all truth" and that they would be "rejected with the contempt the deserved." Wolela reportedly said that the allegation relating to "apartheid style interrogation" was not only an insult to the Minister and Commissioner Moyane, but to all people "who fought bitterly to bring about freedom in South Africa." Reported by News24, 31 January 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/Politics/Prisons-deny-employee-victimisation-20110131>

AWAITING TRIAL PRISONERS

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Court allows convicted offender to travel overseas: The Star reported that the Durban Regional Court granted a convicted sex offender, still waiting to be sentenced, permission to visit his ailing mother in New Zealand. The court warned Stewart Graham Hewitt that should he attempt to flee once abroad, he would simply 'be causing himself more trouble.' Reported by The Star, 4 December 2010, article available at <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-243561571.html#mlt>

Westville Prison accused of ill treatment of children: In an urgent application brought by the Centre for Child Law it is alleged that children awaiting trial at Westville Prison are being fed irregularly and assaulted by officials. The application seeks an order from the court directing that the violations of these children's rights be addressed immediately. Reported by Tania Broughton, 17 December 2010, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/focus-on-children-s-plight-in-jail-1.1002352>

Western Cape prisoners - 80% awaiting trial: IOL reported that as of December 2010 approximately 80% of prisoners in the Western Cape were awaiting trial, the majority of which were being housed in critically over-crowded conditions. The Inspecting Judge for Correctional Services, Judge van Zyl, said that this figure "indicates that far too many people are being arrested on insufficiently justifiable grounds." Judge van Zyl also observed that more prisoners were being sentenced to life imprisonment which exacerbates the problem. Reported by A'Eysha Kassiem, 22 December 2010, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/western-cape/80-of-wc-inmates-awaiting-trial-1.1004034>

Correctional Matters Amendment Bill: Concerns have been raised about a provision in the Correctional Matters Amendment Bill which provides that "an accused who has been remanded in custody can be released into police custody for seven days for further investigation." Judge van Zyl, Inspecting Judge for Correctional Services, said that remand prisoners could be abused or assaulted by police officers seeking to gather sufficient evidence to mount successful cases. Mr Lukas Muntingh from the Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative added that there is a risk that the provision could allow for an administrative decision to overrule a court order. Reported by Wyndham Hartley, 26 January 2011, Business Day at <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=132435>

Unnecessary delays in pre-sentence reports: The Citizen reported that a North Gauteng High Court Judge reprimanded defence counsel for five cash-in-transit accused for causing unnecessary delays

before sentencing. Although defence counsel blamed the prosecution for not requesting the necessary pre-sentence reports, Judge Andre Louw made it clear that it was not the duty of the State to prepare such reports. Reported by Ilse De Lange, 10 December 2010, The Citizen at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=158972&sn=Detail&pid=334&Judge-blasts-defence-over-cash-in-transit--postponement>

Five years awaiting trial: The Sowetan reported that 22 year old Nele Pontshi and four other co-accused have been held at Johannesburg prison for five years awaiting sentencing, having appeared a total of 96 times in court. Pontshi and his co-accused were imprisoned in February 2006 after they were charged with two counts of housebreaking with intent to rob, robbery with aggravating circumstances and two counts of kidnapping and rape. The Pontshi case is not an isolated one. There are approximately 500 prisoners awaiting trial at Johannesburg's Medium A prison, 400 of which have been held for more than two years without conclusion of their cases. Reported by Carolyn Raphaely, 19 January 2011, The Sowetan at <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2011/01/19/accused-being-punished-before-proven-guilty>

Awaiting trial numbers worsen overcrowding in prisons: Business Day reported that the problem of overcrowding in South African prisons is worsened by the length of time awaiting-trial prisoners are held in custody, despite the short-term improvement recently reported by the Department of Correctional Services. A survey conducted by the South African Institute of Race Relations indicates that overcrowding in prisons, including both awaiting-trial and sentenced prisoners, had increased to 72% between 1996 and 2009. Reported by Franny Rabkin, 18 January 2011, Business Day at <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=131720>

Lawyer slams police over un-sentenced prisoners: IOL reported that lawyer Ebenezer Essilfie has criticized Sunnyside police station, including station commander Brigadier Papile Kekana, for holding approximately 20 people in prison for periods exceeding the prescribed 48 hours before being taken to court. Essilfie reportedly sent a letter to Minister Nathi Mthethwa, General Bheki Cele, and the National Director of Public Prosecutions, in which he described the Sunnyside police station "a den of unlawfulness, oppression and suppression of freedom." Reported by Hanti Otto, 31 January 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/a-den-of-unlawfulness-1.1019239>

PAROLE AND SENTENCING

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SCA upholds harsher penalties for rapists without condoms: The Witness reported that the Supreme Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of Patrick Booysen, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for raping a ten year old girl, stating that the fact that Booysen was not wearing a condom at the time of the rape was "an aggravating factor, particularly at time when the world is grappling with the scourge of HIV and AIDS pandemic." Reported by Philip de Bruin, 4 December 2010, The Witness at http://www.witness.co.za/index.php?showcontent&global%5B_id%5D=51909

Teenage Rapist convicted: IOL reported that the Free State High Court found a 16 year old guilty of raping and robbing a doctor at the Pelonomi Hospital. The teenager, who is to be sentenced in March 2011, is being held at a youth centre until his next appearance. Reported by IOL, 7 December 2010, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/minor-guilty-of-raping-doctor-1.989863>

More evidence before Derby-Lewis gets parole: The Mail & Guardian Online reported that Clive Derby-Lewis would not be granted parole by the end of 2010 as more information regarding his case was required. The Minister of Correctional Services' decision not to grant parole was based on a recommendation by the National Council for Correctional Services (NCCS) that Derby-Lewis should first provide necessary additional documents before a decision could be made. Derby-Lewis is expected to appear before the NCCS at its first meeting in 2011. Reported by Mail & Guardian Online, 10 December 2010, at <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-12-10-no-parole-for-derbylewis-yet>

Minister to seek clarity on parole judgment: Business Day reported that the Minister of Correctional Services has said that she would be approaching the Constitutional Court to seek clarity on how to deal with parole applications for prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment before 1994. The Constitutional Court's decision in the *Van Vuren* matter prompted the decision of the National Council for Correctional Services to refrain from considering parole applications as this decision, so interpreted by the Council, effectively removes the question of parole from their jurisdiction. Reported by Franny Rabkin, 10 December 2010, Business Day at <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=129394>

Sentence increased on appeal: The Volksblad newspaper reported that the 15 year sentence of Jan Oompie Kolea for raping a 48-year old woman was converted to a sentence of life imprisonment following an appeal lodged at the Free State High Court. Judge President HM Musi found that there were no mitigating factors or reasons to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentence. *Original report in Afrikaans.* Reported by Mike van Rooyen, 14 December 2010, Volksblad at <http://www.volksblad.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Verkragter-loop-sy-rieme-lelik-styf-in-hof-20101213>

Boy narrowly evades life imprisonment for rape: An 18 year old youth was sentenced to five years imprisonment in Kroonstad for a rape he committed when he was 17 years old. He also forced his 8 and 14-year old brothers to rape the eight year old girl. The magistrate impressed upon the youth that if it was not for his age, 17 years at the time of the crime, he would have received the mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. His 14-year old brother had already been convicted and will be sentenced in January 2011. Charges against his eight year old brother were withdrawn. *Original report in Afrikaans.* Reported by Johan Brits, Die Volksblad, 15 December 2010, <http://www.volksblad.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Verkragting-Graad-7-seun-huil-kliphard-na-vonnis-20101214>

Former Old Mutual manager sentenced to house arrest: IOL reported that Monica Boniswa Ntloko, formerly accountant and departmental manager of Old Mutual, was convicted of fraud and sentenced to three years of house arrest. Magistrate Amrith Chabillal of the Bellville Specialised Commercial Court said that the fact that Ntloko had embezzled from her employer and abused a position of trust were aggravating circumstances. The report also said that she had escaped an imprisonment sentence because there was no other person to care for her teenage daughter and the Constitutional Court has previously held that sentencing should always take into account the best interests of the child. Reported

by IOL, 14 December 2010, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/old-mutual-manager-under-house-arrest-1.1001412>

Killer wants to buy victim's family a goat: IOL reported that a former domestic worker, who told a court that she had killed her friend, asked the court to be lenient with her and not to apply a custodial sentence as she wanted to buy the victim's family a goat. The report said that Manciya, reportedly admitted that she stabbed her friend Johanna Majozi, and only realised what she had done when the victim fell on the ground. It also said that Manciya broke into tears and in remorse asked the court to allow her to pay the victim's family a goat in line with her traditional practices. Reported by Zelda Venter, 15 December 2010, IOL at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/killer-wants-to-buy-victim-s-family-a-goat-1.1001582>

Killer domestic worker gets 18 years: The Citizen newspaper reported that a domestic worker, convicted of stabbing her friend, who had taken over her job, was sentenced to an effective 18 years imprisonment. Ms Manciya repeatedly admitted having stabbed the victim after the victim had called her a witch and told her that she would never get her job back. Reported by the Citizen, 15 December 2010, at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=159479&sn=Detail&pid=334&18-years%E2%80%99-jail-for-killing-%E2%80%98friend%E2%80%99->

SECURITY AND ESCAPE

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Handcuffed prisoner escapes from four officers: Beeld reported that an awaiting trial prisoner facing 17 charges of assault overwhelmed four police officers and escaped in a police vehicle, taking with him four firearms. The report said that the prisoner had escaped while being transported from Pretoria to Nelspruit. After their arrest on 29 January 2011, the responsible police officers appeared in the Cullinan Magistrate's Court on the charge of negligence while transporting the offender. *Original report in Afrikaans.* Reported by Buks Viljoen, 31 January 2011, Beeld at <http://www.beeld.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Geboeide-boef-oorweldig-polisielede-gaps-hul-kar-20110131>

PRISONERS' RIGHTS

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DCS staff biggest killers: IOL reported that a statement by the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services indicated that prison officials are the biggest killers of prisoners, with the incidence of prisoner murder by officials higher than that of murders committed by fellow prisoners. The report also states that "officials appear to have been involved in acts of violence against inmates who are alleged to have assaulted officials or other inmates" and their actions often constituted a form of revenge. Reported by A'Eysha Kassiem, 22 December 2010, IOL at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/prison-staff->

[biggest-killers-1.1004054](#)

CSPRI slams advert: The Cape Times newspaper reported that the Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative (CSPRI) slammed a television advertising campaign seeking to deter drunken-driving by warning male drivers they face the prospect of being raped in prison if arrested. Mr. Lukas Muntingh, CSPRI project coordinator, said that the advertisement was distressing for the mere fact that it showed the acceptance of sexual violence in prison. Mr. Lorenzo Wakefield, a researcher at the Community Law Centre, added that the advertisement "violated the rights of prisoners" in so far as it reinforced the stereotypical image that people in prison are inherently bad and cannot be rehabilitated. Reported by A'Eysha Kassiem, 21 December 2010, Cape Times at <http://www.capetimes.co.za/rape-in-jail-ad-too-shocking-for-some-1.1003729> See also <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/southafrica/8216970/South-African-adverts-threaten-men-with-prison-rape-if-caught-drink-driving.html> and <http://www.tios.co.za/rape-in-jail-ad-too-shocking-for-some-1.1003729>

SOUTH AFRICANS IMPRISONED ABROAD

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Court rejects mothers plea to bring son home: IOL reported that the Pretoria High Court rejected a mother's plea for an order compelling the Government to reconsider her request to enter into a prison transfer agreement to have her son, who was sentenced for drug smuggling in Mauritius, to serve the remainder of his prison sentence in South Africa. The application was made after the government refused to enter into such agreement with Mauritius because of the costs involved and policy considerations attached to such decisions. Pursuant to the court's decision, Johann Gerber, the applicant's son and other South Africans imprisoned abroad, will have to remain where they are. Reported by Zelda Venter, 10 December 2010, IOL at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/blow-for-sa-inmates-in-jail-abroad-1.999801>

New Zealand Judge allows Prof Davison to come home: The Sunday Times Live reported that the Dunedin High Court ruled that Professor Sean Davison, currently being held in connection with his mother's assisted suicide, could return home after serving three months in prison. Prof Davison will therefore be allowed to return home until he stands trial in June 2011. Reported by Sunday Times Live, 11 December 2010, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/article810975.ece/Mercy-killer-comes-home>

Convicted fugitive arrested: Sowetan Live reported that a man who had fled the country in the hope of avoiding his eight year prison sentence was re-arrested in Namibia in December 2010. Rademeyer's application for extradition to South Africa was heard by a Namibian court on 3 January 2011. Reported by Sowetan Live, 3 January 2011, at <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2011/01/03/convicted-fugitive-arrested>

OTHER

Compensation for six ill-treated ex-prisoners: The Citizen reported that six former school girls, who were clamped in leg irons and unlawfully imprisoned for breaking a window while absconding from a school six years ago, have been awarded close to R 700 000 in damages. Judge Ranchod ordered the Minister of Safety and Security, Justice and Correctional Services and the North West Education MEC to pay between R 82 800 and R 182 500 to each of the girls. Report by Ilse De Lange, 13 December 2010, The Citizen at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=158691&sn=Detail&pid=334&-R700-000-in-damages-to-6-girls>

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

ALGERIA

Christians face imprisonment for opening church: The Bikyamasr reported that four Algerian Christian converts were expected to be sentenced to one year of imprisonment for opening a place of worship without permission from the country's authorities, as required by law. The report also said that in 2010, several trials had been opened in the northern region of the country to address cases concerning violations of Islamic precepts. Reported by Accra Mail, 8 January 2011, at <http://bikyamasr.com/wordpress/?p=22153>

ANGOLA

Angola holds Somali youth in prisons: The Africa Review reported that over 200 Somali youths were being held in Angola. Mohamed Fu'ad Sanweyne said that the conditions in Angolan prisons were poor and he appealed for urgent assistance. In most cases the youths had been held in prison for more than a year, where they had been subjected to ill-treatment by prison authorities. Reported by Abdulkadir Khalif, 25 January 2011, Africa Review at <http://www.africareview.com/News/Scores%20of%20Somali%20youths%20detained%20in%20Angola/-/979180/1095468/-/ncdj5sz/-/>

BOTSWANA

Former prisoner speaks of Mahalapye "Spill-Die" room: The Mmegionline reported the story of a former prisoner who spoke about his worst experience in prisons in Botswana. Out of all prison facilities where Kgethisa Motlhakwane had been held, the Spill-Die room of the Mahalapye prison had been the worst. Motlhakwane compared the Spill-Die room to Rwanda, a place, where, once you enter, you lose your freedom. Motlhakwane said that the Spill-Die room at Mahalapye is a cubicle in which it is practically impossible to sit, squat or lie. He also said that when prisoners are released from these rooms they are often unconscious and not given the appropriate medical assistance. Reported by the

Mmegionline, 17 December 2010, at <http://www.mmegi.bw/index.php?sid=6&aid=7439&dir=2010/December/Friday17>

BURUNDI

Government slammed on prison issues: IRIN News reported that the Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC) of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi criticised the country's transitional government for not releasing political prisoners and for failing to improve condition in the country's prisons. A 2010 IMC communiqué said that the "failure to resolve the question of political prisoners and irregularly detained prisoners was the result of (...) lack of political will." The Committee called for the immediate release of political prisoners, the provisional release of prisoners detained for more than six years without trial, and the paroling of prisoners who had served more than a quarter of their sentences. Reported by IRIN News, 11 January 2011, at <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=46565>

CAMEROON

Civil society laments prison conditions on Human Rights Day: allAfrica.com reported that the Cameroonian Association for the Promotion of Human Rights and Socio-Economic Status of Vulnerable Women and Children (PRISE) and the Chad National Coordinator for Non-Violence and Partners Association to Share Development Support (APAD) were setting up a partnership to defend human rights, and to advocate for human treatment of prisoners, in particular, elderly prisoners, women and children. The report said the organisations envision improving exchange of information, distribution of a newsletter, the establishment of a multi-disciplinary team and to undertake research and advocacy. It said too that in order to mark the International Human Rights Day (10 December), they had organised a debate conference to be followed by a press conference. APAD-Chad coordinator, Abderamane Ali Gossoumian, said that a crucial problem in several countries is the existence of unofficial prisons, which are difficult to control. *Original report in French.* Reported by Georges Ndenga, All Africa.com, 10 December 2010, at <http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201012805.hym1>

CHAD

ICRC holds seminar on health, water and living conditions in prison facilities: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that the organisation held a seminar on 18 January 2011 in the N'Djamena region, which focused on health, water and living conditions in places of detention. The report said that the aim of the seminar was to promote the sharing of experiences and best practice among prison professionals. Participants at the seminar included senior officials from the justice and health ministries, directors of the countries' main prison facilities, and the heads of health-related services and employment within the national gendarmerie. The report said that in order to achieve the objectives of the seminar, the ICRC head of delegation in N'Djamena, Judith Greenwood, emphasised the idea of an open and constructive dialogue between the participants and the ICRC. Reported by ICRC, 18 January 2011, at <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2011/chad-news-2011-01-18.htm>

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

ICRC assists in prisons: The Relief Web reported that the International Committee of the Red Cross

(ICRC) has been increasingly engaged with prisoners in Côte d'Ivoire. The report said that since the political unrest, which erupted in 28 November 2010, the organisation has been actively engaged in helping families establish contact with their relatives who were imprisoned. It also said that since the beginning of the political crisis delegates of the ICRC have visited more than 370 prisoners and made over 300 phone calls to their families. The report further said that due to the prevailing situation the ICRC would continue providing food aid for prisoners in the country. Reported by the Relief Web, 14 January 2011, at <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/VVOS-8D4RVH?OpenDocument>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Relief in overcrowded prisons in North-Kivu: Radio Okapi reported that measures to help relieve conditions of overcrowding in prisons in the Beni and Goma regions of the country had begun on 25 December 2010. The report said that 100 prisoners, who had been convicted of minor offences, were released. The head of the provincial justice department, Lydie Masika, said that the measure would help to relieve congestion in prisons in the region. She added that magistrates had been examining cases of all awaiting trial prisoners' who had been held for longer than five years. *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 27 December 2010, at <http://www.easimail.co.za/Home/link.asp?id=18960&hash=a5c7fd>

Poor sanitation facilities in Munzenze prison: Radio Okapi reported that some local medical sources said that more than 500 of the 900 prisoners, who are being held at the Munzenze prison in North-Kivu, are ill. The report said that prison authorities depend on assistance from the ICRC and the need for medication among prisoners remained urgent. Lydie Masika, head of the provincial justice department, attributed the situation to the cramped space in the prison, stating that "the maximum capacity of this prison is 150, while there are currently more than 900 prisoners." *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 28 December 2010, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/12/28/goma-situation-sanitaire-inquietante-a-la-prison-de-munzenze/>

President releases 122 prisoners on parole: Radio Okapi reported that 122 DRC prisoners were released conditionally on parole following a presidential pardon. The report said that the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Mr. Luzolo Bambi, said that all prisoners who were released had served a quarter of their sentences and showed improved behaviour. The report also said that none of these prisoners had committed crimes involving (sexual) violence or attacks on the internal or external security of the State. In total, 159 prisoners had their sentences remitted while the sentences of 212 prisoners were reduced. *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 16 January 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2011/01/16/kinshasa-liberation-de-122-detenus-a-la-faveur-de-la-grace-presidentielle/>

Ministers to visit overcrowded prison: Radio Okapi reported that the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Luzolo Bambi, and the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure visited the Central Prison of Makala to enquire about the conditions of detention and the state of the infrastructure of the prison facility. The Makala prison facility was built to accommodate 1500 prisoners, but was currently housing almost 6000 prisoners. The report also said that Minister Bambi urged magistrates in the region to sort out the awaiting trial records and set a finite term for prolonged and irregular detention. It also said that some prisoners had been held in Makala for more than 10 years without having been tried. *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 20 January 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2011/01/20/le-ministre-luzolo-bambi-decouvre-les-conditions-de->

[detention-de-pres-de-6-000-pensionnaires-de-la-prison-de-makala/](#)

EQUATORIAL-GUINEA

Reforms remain a dream: Salon News reported that government efforts to introduce reforms in Equatorial Guinea "remained a dream." Despite the country's President, Mbasogo, having contracted "reform counsel" Lanny Davis (a former official in the Clinton administration), the human rights situation in the country had not changed. Human rights abuses include the execution of political prisoners, torture, life threatening conditions in prisons and detention facilities and unlawful killings and arbitrary detention. Reported by Justin Elliott, 5 January 2011, Salon News at http://www.salon.com/news/politics/war_room/2011/01/05/lanny_davis_equatorial_guinea/

GHANA

Threats to prisoners' health: The Ghana News Agency reported that the Gomoa Osamkrom Prison Camp in Ghana Central Region did not have toilet facilities for prison staff and that the manhole previously dug for prisoners' use had deteriorated. While prison staff and their dependents were compelled to use nearby forests, the condition of the prisoners' manhole was a health hazard. Mr. Richmond Mensah, Effutu Director of the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, revealed that between January and November 2010 many prisoners were reported to be sick with malaria and diarrhoea. Reported by the Ghana News Agency, 12 December 2010, at http://www.ghananewsagency.org/s_social/r_23296/

LIBYA

President's son reveals progress and failures on rights: AFP reported that the foundation run by Libyan President Kadhafi's son, Seif al-Islam, released its annual report on human rights in Libya in December 2010. The report noted both the progress on some issues and failure in others. It was revealed that there had been no further investigation into the 1996 massacre at Tripoli's Abu Slim prison. However, the Foundation welcomed the release of dozens of Islamists from Libyan prisons in 2010. Reported by AFP, 12 December 2010, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j9d4gnSU1gJG3r1YeO9-3jOzL95A?docId=CNG.0ed3998a295f5adfe107a562e6a29edf.781>

KENYA

Judges dismiss "inter-sex" prisoner's plea: AllAfrica.com reported that a Kenyan court dismissed the attempts by an inter-sex prisoner for recognition of a third gender group in Kenyan law. The report said that the three judges Hannah Okwengu, Ruth Sitati and George Dulu concurred that Richard Muasya did not provide sufficient evidence to show that there are so called "intersex" people in Kenya. The court held that Muasya is "provided for under the constitution which protects one against discrimination based on gender." Reported by allAfrica.com, 2 December 2010, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201012030196.html>

CBI announces opening in Kenya: Earned Media reported that the Crossroad Bible Institute (CBI)

announced the opening of an international distribution centre in Kenya. CBI would begin its activities in the Naivasha Prison, which houses about 3000 prisoners, and in four other prisons across the country. It is expected that CBI will provide prisoners with food, medical supplies, blankets, soap, toilet paper and other basic necessities. Reported by the Earned Media, 6 December 2010, at <http://www.earnedmedia.org/cbi1206.htm>

MAURITIUS

Prison reform underway: The Independent reported that new prison commissioner, Mr. Jean Bruneau, is planning to introduce reforms in the country's current prison system. The report said that the separation of awaiting-trial prisoners from those who have been convicted is one of the projects planned and that the new commissioner is looking forward to the opening of a new prison facility in Melrose, which will have the capacity to accommodate up to 750 prisoners. Reported by The Independent, 25 January 2011, at <http://theindependent.mu/2011/01/17/detainees-to-be-held-separately/> ?

MOROCCO

Details of prison conditions in Wikileak cable: Africa News reported that a diplomatic cable released by Wikileaks provides insight into the conditions of prisons in Morocco, which are overcrowded and underfunded. In order to improve these conditions, the Justice Ministry would be re-drafting the penal code to allow for parole and probation. Reported by Africa News, 22 December 2010, at <http://www.world247.net/africa-news/wikileak-cable-on-prison-conditions-in-morocco-released/>

MOZAMBIQUE

Female prison to produce chicken on industrial scale: The Macauhub reported that the Mozambican National Prison Service (SNAPRI) has launched an ambitious program industrializing the production of chicken at the Ndlavela Female Prison in Matola. The program, which costs approximately USD 400 000, would be funded by the Danish government. Both female prisoners and the local population would benefit from the training involved. It is hoped that over time, the program will be extended to other prisons in the country. Reported by Macauhub, 9 December 2010, at <http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/news.php?ID=10633>

Government to analyse bill on alternative sentencing options: All Africa.com reported that the Government of Mozambique is preparing to analyse a bill on alternative sentencing. It is expected that the draft bill will be subject to government analysis in April 2011 before being made into law. If signed into law, the bill will reduce government expenditure on the prison system, which is currently experiencing conditions of overcrowding and subject to poor dietary standards and unhygienic sanitation facilities. Reported by All Africa.com, 30 January 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201101310217.html>

NIGERIA

Criminal Justice System requires reforms: The PM News reported that the premature release of 22

prisoners indicates that the Nigerian criminal justice system is in immediate need of reform. Prisons are overcrowded and the sanitation facilities are poor. It is important, therefore, that the judiciary looks to alternative forms of sentencing such as community service and suspended sentences. Reported by the PM News, 20 December 2010, at <http://pmnewsnigeria.com/2010/12/20/reforming-the-criminal-justice-and-prison-system/>

Murder suspects released after 15 years: The Sun News Online reported that a Lagos High Court released two suspects who had been awaiting trial for fifteen years for the murder of Alfred Rewane, former chieftain of National Democratic Coalition (NADECO). The report said that Lucky Igbinovia and Effiong Eleme-Edu were acquitted because the prosecution failed to prove the case against the accused beyond a reasonable doubt. Justice Olusola Milliams held that the only evidence given to the court were statements allegedly made by defendants, which were later said to have been made under coercion. Reported by Faith Omoruyi, 18 January 2011, The Sun News Online at <http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2011/jan/18/national-18-01-2011-08.htm>

RWANDA

Rwandan rebel handed to the ICC: Times Live reported that French authorities have handed over a Rwandan rebel leader to the International Criminal Court (ICC) upon allegations of rape, murder and torture committed during a terror campaign against civilians in the DRC. Mbarushimana's transfer to the ICC marks the first time France has handed over a suspect to the ICC. Reported by Times Live, 25 January 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/article873043.ece/DRC-r%20ape-suspect-handed-over-to-Hague-court>

SENEGAL

AU wants Habre tried in Senegal: News24 reported that the African Union reiterated that it wants the former Chadian president, Hissene Habre, accused of killing and torturing thousands during his rule between 1982 and 1990, to be tried in Senegal. The report said that in December 2010 Senegalese president, Abdoulaye Wade, had said that he wanted to refer the case back to the African Union, but that the AU had since reiterated that it wants Habre to be tried in Dakar. Reported by News24, 29 January 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/AU-wants-Habre-tried-in-Senegal-20110130>

SUDAN

Human rights activist freed: Reuters Africa reported that the Sudanese authorities had freed a human rights activist who was imprisoned in December 2010 on allegations of having committed financial fraud. The report said that Mudawi Ibrahim was released after a court ruled that he had served enough of his one year sentence. Ibrahim said that the Khartoum authorities were "targeting all human rights activists" and "many of them had left the country." He added that his imprisonment was an attempt by the authorities to push him outside the country. Reported by Reuters Africa, 26 January 2011, at <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E70P0NM20110126>

TUNISIA

Arrest warrant for former President issued: BBC News reported that the interim government of Tunisia has issued an international arrest warrant for former President, Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali and his family. The Minister of Justice, Lazhar Karoui Chebbi, said that the government had asked AU member states to work via international police to imprison Ben Ali, who fled to Saudi Arabia on 14 January 2011. The report also said that 2 460 prisoners had been released, but it did not indicate whether these were political prisoners that the government had promised to release. Reported by BBC News, 26 January 2011, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12286650>

Situation in Tunisia deteriorating: A Human Rights Watch report has said that the situation in Tunisia had deteriorated since violent protests began in December 2010. Human Rights Watch has called for the Tunis interim government to release prisoners held for acts of peaceful expression or peaceful political activities. The country's Prime Minister, Mohammed Ghannouchi's, has since reportedly said that persons imprisoned during demonstrations against government corruption would be released following investigations into these allegations. Reported by Human Rights Watch, 14 January 2011, at <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/01/14/tunisia-end-use-excessive-force-free-political-prisoners>

UGANDA

Court denies bail to terror suspects: allAfrica.com reported that a Ugandan Court has denied the bail applications submitted by four terror suspects charged in connection with the July 2010 bombing in Kampala. Justice Chigamoy Owiny-Dolo dismissed the bail application saying that "they had not adequately convinced court to release them." The report also stated that Justice Owiny-Dolo held the view that the gravity of the offences weighed heavily against the granting of bail. Reported by Andante Okanya and Eddie Ssejjoba, 27 January 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201101280071.html>

Organisation helps former prisoners: Daily Monitor reported that "Mission After Custody," an organisation initiated by a former prisoner, and which focuses on assisting prisoners to reintegrate into society, is working closely with both prisoners and former prisoners, to reduce torture in prison. Reported by Brenda Banura, 31 January 2011, Daily Monitor at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/LifeStyle/Reviews/-/691232/1098388/-/bnhqbj/-/>

ZAMBIA

"TB-Reach Programme" launched: The Zambia Daily Mail reported that the Ministry of Home Affairs officially launched a Tuberculosis-Reach Programme at the Lusaka Prison on 20 January 2011. The report said that the USD 1 million project is part of a broader government campaign to address the various problems affecting the country's prison system. It also said that the programme, which is designed to improve the screening, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis infections in Zambian prisons, would be implemented in partnership with the Centre for Infectious Diseases Research in Zambia (CIDRZ). Reported by Charles Musonda, 21 January 2011, the Zambia Daily Mail at <http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/media/news/viewnews.cgi?category=8&id=1295565275>

Government speaks of efforts regarding the rehabilitation of prisons: The Lusaka Times reported that the Zambian Government has disclosed efforts aimed at improving the conditions of prisons in the country. Home Affairs Minister, Mkhondo Lungu, reportedly said that such efforts had been in place

since 2010 and would continue to be so for the few prison facilities which were still benefiting from the project. The report also said that, in accordance with government policy, the government had spent billions on the improvement of prison infrastructure and rehabilitative programs. Reported by the Lusaka Times, 24 January 2011, at <http://www.lusakatimes.com/2011/01/22/zambia-prison-service-infrastructure-development-face-lift/>

ZIMBABWE

Women to sue police over wrongful imprisonment: allAfrica.com reported that Women of Zimbabwe Arise (Woza) was preparing to sue Zimbabwe Police after a decision of the Supreme Court found that two senior leaders of the organisation had been wrongfully imprisoned in 2008. According to the report, Jenni Williams and Magodonga Mahlangu were imprisoned after a peaceful protest against the government demanding that all Zimbabweans be provided with humanitarian aid. Woza seek a considerable amount of compensation for wrongful imprisonment and damages linked thereto. Reported by AllAfrica.com, 6 December 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201012070145.html>

Prisoners share cells with goats: Radio VOP reported that, during December 2010, prisoners at the Harare Central Prison in Zimbabwe had been moved from their cells to create room for five goats. This meant that prisoners were forced to share a tiny cell in the prison complex. The officers have failed to explain who owned the goats. Reported by Radio VOP, 20 December 2010, at <http://www.radiovop.com/index.php/national-news/5083-zim-prisoners-share-cells-with-goats.html>

Restrictive rules on prison visits: The Zimbabwean reported that the Immigration Department has imposed new rules on Zimbabweans of foreign origin hoping to visit relatives in prison. As of 1 January 2011 all foreigners and Zimbabweans of foreign origin are required to obtain a clearance certificate from the immigration authorities before they can visit their relatives in prisons. Reported by the Zimbabwean, 19 January 2011, at http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=36870:immigration-tightened&catid=69:sunday-top-stories&Itemid=30

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