



30 Days Dae Izinsuku

Project of the
Community Law Centre

CSPRI "30 Days/Dae/Izinsuku" November 2009

CSPRI "30 Days/Dae/Izinsuku"
November 2009

In this Issue:

CORRUPTION AND GOVERNANCE

SENTENCING AND PAROLE

SAFETY AND SECURITY

HEALTH

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

CORRUPTION AND GOVERNANCE

[Top of Page](#)

Prison officers suspended: A report in News24 said that the Western Cape Correctional Services security chief, Lionel Adams and another senior official have been suspended after an unauthorised release of a prisoner. The Department's spokesperson, Ofentse Morwane, confirmed that Adams and Julius Mentoor of the Cape Town Community Corrections office were suspended on full pay following the release of a prisoner from the Goodwood correctional centre. SAPA, 11 November 2009, News24, at http://www.news24.com/Content/SouthAfrica/News/1059/0df6455b566b488c8d0b2b8abd6fae34/11-11-2009-07-02/Cape_prison_bosses_suspended

Lack of accountability at Correctional Services: The Minister of Correctional Services, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, lamented the lack of accountability and non-compliance that is deeply engrained in her ministry. While briefing Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services, the Minister said "The truth of the matter is that the organisational culture in the Department of Correctional Services, is (that) of non-accountability", adding that "The lines of accountability in [her] view are very blurred." News24 Reported. SAPA, 17 November 2009, News24 at http://www.news24.com/Content/SouthAfrica/News/1059/3fcf01e25e3d4dcea46ff23422a9ca2f/11-11-2009-05-03/Prisons_not_accountable

MPs get report on prison fraud: A report from IOL stated that the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) has briefed Members of Parliament (MPs) on an alleged prison graft at the Department of Correctional Services. According to the IOL report, "contracts worth at least R1, 7 billion for prison security and catering went to a company that paid millions of rands in alleged kickbacks to two former high-ranking prisons officials, one of whom now heads security for the Soccer World Cup in 2010. Reported by Carien du Plessis, 18 November 2009, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=vn20091118043018156C876409

Abuse of Correctional Services' property cost millions of rands: The continuous abuse and theft of Correctional Services vehicles and vehicle parts, is reported to have cost the Department R27-million in

maintenance in the past six months. The Deputy Chief Commissioner for Management, Mollet Ngubo, told the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services that it was difficult to get to the core of the problem because of cover-ups, IOL reported. The Department is currently investigating the possibility of a private company to manage the Correctional Services fleet to curb the problem. Reported by Siyabonga Mkhwanazi, 19 November 2009, IOL, at

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=vn20091119110226151C702895

Prison and fraud: A senior Correctional Services official is reported to be at the centre of tender fraud worth millions of rands. The former financial head of the Department of Correctional Services, Patrick Gillingham, allegedly received a house valued at R1m, cars, overseas trips, cash and six season tickets for Loftus Versfeld in exchange for awarding tenders worth millions of rands, Rapport reported. The suspended financial head of the Department allegedly awarded tenders worth R239m irregularly. Minister of Correctional Services, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, said the matter was in the hands of the National Prosecuting Authority, for possible criminal charges. Original report in Afrikaans. Reported by Llewellyn Prince, 21 November 2009, Rapport at

http://www.rapport.co.za/Content/SuidAfrika/Nuus/2315/695c72783a674a3cadeb8b4655db946c/21-11-2009-11-29/DKD_se_geldhoof_ruim_vergoed_omdat_hy_tender_toestaan

Corruption at the Department of Correctional Services: The Minister of Correctional Services, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, is alleged to have attempted to cover-up of the report on the investigation carried out by the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) with regards to an alleged tender fraud worth R2 billion, The Times Live reported. According to the report, the alleged cover-up has sparked tension between the Minister and Vincent Smith, chairperson of Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services. Reported by Mpumelelo Mkhabela, 22 November 2009, The Times Live, at

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/article203834.ece>

Prison graft may involve former Minister of Correctional Services: MPs of the Democratic Alliance (DA) have requested that the former Correctional Services Minister, Ngconde Balfour, be called to answer before Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services with regard to the Bosasa contract that have been implicated in irregularities. The Times Live reported that DA MP James Selfe wrote to the chairperson of the Correctional Services Portfolio Committee, Vincent Smith, and asked that Balfour - now South Africa's ambassador to Botswana - and former Correctional Services National Commissioner, Linda Mti, be ordered to appear before the Committee. Reported by Lauren Cohen, 24 November 2009, The Times Live, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/news/article207601.ece>

Correctional Services scandal: The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) report on the Bosasa fraud has continued to raise eyebrows as many top government and political figures may be involved. Former Correctional Services Minister, Ngconde Balfour, currently serving as South Africa's High Commissioner to Botswana, is alleged to have participated in the alleged graft. The Sowetan reported that Themba Godi, chairperson of the Standing Committee On Public Accounts (SCOPA), said "I am still perplexed at how Balfour can continue to represent South Africa as an ambassador when he so seriously let the nation down". Reported by Anna Majavu, 24 November 2009, Sowetan, at

<http://www.sowetan.co.za/News/Article.aspx?id=1091152> see also <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-24-scopa-wants-balfour-recalled-from-botswana>

SENTENCING AND PAROLE

[Top of Page](#)

Medical parole needs review: The chairman for the Correctional Services Parole Review Board, Judge Siraj Desai, has reiterated the need to review the current parole system. Judge Desai, in a Correctional Services Portfolio Committee meeting, said "I personally am of the view that the Act should be amended to broaden the scope on which we can release medically unfit persons from prison." According to a report in

the Mail and Guardian, Schabir Shaik's controversial release on medical parole had damaged the credibility of the parole system. Judge Desai, called on government to amend to parole system. SAPA, 4 November 2009, Mail & Guardian, at <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-04-desai-admits-shaik-parole-damaged-credibility-of-system>

Internet hacker spent a year in prison: According to a report in The Times Live, an internet hacker, Alistair Peterson, spent more than a year in prison because the Department of Correctional Services refused to recognise a plea and sentence agreement he had reached with the now-defunct Scorpions. After stealing R55-million - R17-million of which he stashed in a bank account in Swaziland - Peterson was arrested by Scorpions officers in an elaborate sting operation in March 2007. He was imprisoned but later released to serve the remainder of his 8-year sentence as a suspended sentence on condition that he develops anti hacking software. Reported by Amukelani Chauke, 23 November 2009, Time Live, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/news/article206116.ece>

Shaik could have his parole terms changed: In a written reply to a parliamentary question, President Jacob Zuma, is reported to have said that Schabir Shaik, who is currently on medical parole could face a reprimand, or have his parole terms altered, News24 reported. Zuma reportedly said that the Correctional Services Act sets out the procedure to be followed where there are allegations of non-compliance with parole conditions. Reported by Michael Hamlyn, 25 November 2009, News24, at http://www.news24.com/Content/SouthAfrica/Politics/1057/78fa6763b4c34c0db02031cee37cf9f4/25-11-2009-11-47/Zuma_to_reprimand_Shaik

Ex-cricket manager back to prison: According to The Citizen, the former United Cricket Board administrative and general manager, Diteko Modise, has been ordered back to prison to serve out his effective 30-year sentence. Magistrate Jeremy Janse van Vuuren imposed the sentence following the conviction on charges of fraud, theft and money laundering involving R7, 2 million. Gauteng High Court Judge C Claassen is reported had set the former judgment aside and Modise was released. However, one day after Modise's release, Judge C Claassen ordered his re-arrest on grounds that "something highly irregular" had occurred. Reported by Sandra Lieberum, 26 November 2009, The Citizen, at <http://www.thecitizen.co.za/index/article.aspx?pDesc=111298,1,22>

Prisoners have no right to choose prison: The Minister of Correctional Services, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, said that no prisoner in South Africa has the right to choose where to be imprisoned. According to a report in News24, Mapisa-Nqakula told prisoners that "[They] have rights, but there is a limitation to those rights". She was reacting to recent unrest and hostage-taking at the Mangaung Correctional Centre (MCC), a maximum security private-public-partnership prison. According to a News24 report, the reclassification of prisoners is the sole responsibility of the Department. The current reclassification process would result in about 1 000 prisoners being transferred to maximum B-security prisons closer to their homes, as space became available at those facilities. SAPA, 27 November 2009, News24 at http://www.news24.com/Content/SouthAfrica/News/1059/5125c69ccc7b4ff3bc2593d4adcad681/27-11-2009-08-31/Criminals_cant_pick_jails

SAFETY AND SECURITY

[Top of Page](#)

Prisoner unrest at private prison: A group of prisoners were reported to have taken hostage a number of prison employees at the privately operated Manguang Correctional Centre and setting their cells on fire. According to a News24 report, the prisoners were dissatisfied that they could not be transferred to a medium security correctional centre, due to their involvement in previous unrest situations at the prison. SAPA, 2 November 2009, News24, at

http://www.news24.com/Content/SouthAfrica/News/1059/bf8032a59e1f440dbfcaed56c44d7f41/02-11-2009-09-44/Standoff_at_Free_State_prison

HEALTH

[Top of Page](#)

Health workers avoid working in prisons: According to a report in News24, some doctors, nurses and pharmacists are refusing to work in South Africa's prisons. In a briefing to Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services, the Acting Director of Health and Physical Care at the Department of Correctional Services, Maria Mabena, said "Sometimes a nurse comes one morning and the following morning resigns", adding that the situation is not different with pharmacists and doctors. Mabena, emphasised the need for healthcare services to be made available to prisoners and that "[A] person's ability to access healthcare services should not be compromised because they have been incarcerated" she added. SAPA, 18 November 2009, News24, at

http://www.news24.com/Content/SouthAfrica/News/1059/f9bcba3f3294435ca96e3d632101d0e0/18-11-2009-04-07/Health_workers_shun_prisons

SA woman ill in Venezuela prison: The health of a South African woman, Zenolia du Plooy (42), who was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment in Venezuela for smuggling cocaine, is reportedly rapidly deteriorating. She is suffering from systemic lupus and requires urgent medical attention. Her attorney, Annelize Joubert, has approached the North Gauteng High Court on an urgent basis in order to seek relief based on medical grounds from the Venezuelan authorities. Ms. Joubert alleged that she is not receiving any assistance from the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation. Reported by Susan Cilliers, Beeld, 30 Nov 2009, Original report in Afrikaans,

http://www.beeld.com/Content/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/1928/6b689dcf850b4b24867138aa0c5526bb/30-11-2009-12-11/SA_vrou_in_tronk_in_Venezuela

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

[Top of Page](#)

Tanzania

Albino killer on death row: A Tanzanian court, in the northern town of Shinyanga, convicted and sentenced four men to death for murdering an albino man last year the BBC reported. It is estimated that more than 50 albino persons have been murdered in Tanzania within two years. The four men are expected to appeal their sentence. BBC, 2 November 2009, at

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8338838.stm>

UN Court releases genocide prisoner: The United Nations Court seated in Tanzania has ordered the release from prison of the brother-in-law of former Rwandan President, Juvenal Habyarimana, IOL reported. Judge Theodor Meron ordered the release of the prisoner when he said the Trial Chamber committed serious errors in the 2008 conviction and sentencing of Protais Zigiranyirazo to 20-years in prison. SAPA, 16 November 2009, IOL at

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=87&art_id=nw20091116154803954C732309

Cameroon

The forgotten prisoners at New Bell prison: Some prisoners at the New Bell prison at Douala have described their cell as 'third rate'. There are about forty of them living in the third section. Some of them are above 60-years old while others are in their fifties. Cameroun-online reported. One prisoner, Djouassi Mezack who is 67 years old and captain of his cell, said "We are thrown to the back of the prison; we are no longer important to the society..." "I was accused of raping two minors six and three years in Bepanda. It was my neighbours who have spread this gossip (about me)". Original report in French. Reported by Steve Libam, 2 November 2009, Cameroon-online, <http://www.cameroun-online.com/actualite,actu-12760.html>

Liberia

Failed prison escape: An attempted prison escape in Liberia was halted after police officers serving with the United Nations peacekeeping force in Liberia intervened. According to a UN News Centre report, about 50 prisoners tried to escape after stealing a set of keys from a correctional services officer. The report indicated that the prisoners were halted after several gun shots were fired in the air. UN News Centre, 2 November 2009, at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32817&Cr=liberia&Cr1=unmil>

Libya

Libya releases Nigerian prisoners: A report in Afrique en Ligne said that 19 Nigerian citizens have been released from prisons in Libya. According to the report, the "House Committee on Diaspora wishes to acknowledge that through its intervention and letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 19 more Nigerian detainees in Libyan prisons were released on Wednesday 4 November, 2009." The chairperson of the House Committee on Diaspora, Ms Abike Dabiri-Erewa, said that there were still 13 Nigerians left in Libyan prisons. PANA, 5 November 2009, Afrique en Ligne, at <http://www.afriquejet.com/news/afrika-news/19-nigerians-granted-amnesty-in-libya,-13-still-held-2009110537684.html>

Libyans in Maltese prisons: A report in Maltatoday stated that Libyans are ranked amongst the top in foreigners in Maltese prisons. According to the report, foreign prisoners constitute 40 percent of the total prison population of Malta. In May 2008, the foreign prisoner population at Corradino stood at 31%, 200 of the 499 prisoners currently imprisoned hail from foreign countries, and now stand at 40% of the inmate population. Libya, Nigeria and Somalia are presently the most represented foreign nationalities in Maltese prisons. By James Debono, 15 November 2009, Maltatoday, at <http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/2009/11/15/t8.html>

Relatives want Lockerbie bomber back in prison: Some relatives of victims of the Lockerbie bombing are attempting to persuade the British and Scottish governments to return Al-Megrahi to prison. According to an AfricaNews report, Al-Megrahi, 57, was set free on a compassionate grounds from a Scottish prison on 20 August 2009, as he was said to have terminal prostate cancer and will die in less than three months, according to a medical report released by Scottish authorities. Three months have passed and he is still alive. Reported by Kingsly Kobo, 20 November 2009, AfricaNews, at http://www.africanews.com/site/Libya_Lockerbie_bomber_asked_back_to_jail/list_messages/28146

Equatorial Guinea

Coup plotters pardoned: The President of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang Nguema, is reported to have granted presidential pardons to Simon Mann and four South Africans who were sentenced to 34 years in prison in Equatorial Guinea for plotting a coup against President Obiang Nguema. Mann, who was sentenced in July 2008, had admitted to conspiring to oust President Teodoro Obiang Nguema. It is reported that they were released for humanitarian reasons. BBC, 3 November 2009, at

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8339372.stm>

Mercenary explains his ordeal in prison: The Times Live reported that Nick Du Toit, one of the prisoners release following presidential pardons in Equatorial Guinea, said they were tortured in prison with electric shock devices and burning cigarettes. "One coup plotter died of a heart attack while being tortured," he said. According to the report, they were unexpectedly released on 5 November 2009 with fellow coup plotters Simon Mann and South Africa's George Alerson, Sergio Cardoso and Jose Sundays after receiving a presidential pardon from President Teodoro Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea. SAPA, 22 November 2009, The Time live at

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/news/article204502.ece>

Simon Mann's special treatment in prison: Four mercenaries who had been summoned to meet with the Attorney General of Equatorial Guinea, in a ground-floor room at Black Beach Prison, came face-to face with Simon Mann for the first time since their arrest in 2004. According to The Mail report, Mann had been negotiating his release, reported to have cost him close to half a million pounds. Mann's chief conspirator, Nick du Toit, expressed shock when he said "He seemed so relaxed, almost unaware of us", "Then he wanted to shake my hand and was only slightly embarrassed that I was shuffling over to him in chains. He asked how I was and I said I was fine. It was unreal." He also revealed details of the special treatment afforded to Mann during his time at Black Beach Prison - which included hotel food and an exercise treadmill, Daily Mail reported. Reported by Barbara Jones, 22 November 2009, Daily Mail, at

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1229928/Coup-plotter-I-heard-Simon-Mann-wife-ask-wonga-needed-buy-way-jail.html>

Algeria

Algeria to humanise prisons: A project to humanise Algeria's prisons, launched in 2008, is expected to end in 2012. It is reported that more than 40,000 prisoners are confined in 128 overcrowded prisons; 61% of which are quite old and some of them more than 100 years old. The European Union is supporting the modernisation of the prison system in Algeria, with 17 million Euros out of the 18.5 million Euros that constitute the total cost of the project. According to the report, 81 new prisons will be constructed in the country to reduce overcrowding. Reported by Basma Karasha, 5 November 2009, Window on the Euro-Mediterranean Life, at

<http://mail.google.com/mail/?hl=en&shva=1#label/CSPRI/124c4096abed669c>

49 on death row: The leader of the Al-Qaida movement in Algeria, Abdelmalek Droukdel, and 48 others have been sentenced to death after the murder of 11 people and the serious wounding of 100 others in April 2007, AFP reported. But the death penalty is not applied in Algeria under a moratorium. It is also said that Droukdel, head of Al-Qaida in Maghreb, has escaped several arrests, and has been repeatedly condemned in absentia to death for similar attacks. Original report in French. AFP, 13 November 2009, Le Monde, at

http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2009/11/13/algerie-peine-capitale-par-contumace-pour-le-chef-de-l-aqmi-et-48-accuses_1266899_3212.html

Algerian Guantanamo Bay prisoner gets 20 years: An Algerian court has sentenced a Guantanamo Bay prisoner to 20-years imprisonment for being part of an "overseas terrorist group", Jurist reported. According to the report, Ahmed Belbacha had been in Guantanamo Bay prison since 2002 after he was captured in Pakistan. He was cleared for release by the US military prison facility, but said he does not want to return to his home country of Algeria for fear of torture and thus sought asylum in the US. Reported by Zach Zagger, 30 November 2009, The Jurist, at

<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/paperchase/2009/11/algeria-court-sentences-guantanamo.php>

Morocco

Prisoners of conscience: The Moroccan government has imprisoned 8 people for crossing the "red lines" on the taboo issues of the monarchy and the status of Western Sahara. According to Amnesty

International, this represents a serious attack on freedom of expression by the Moroccan authorities. Amnesty International has described the prisoners as prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International is also concerned that Idriss Chahtane, one of the prisoners, seem to face punitive treatment inside Salé Civil Prison: he is held in solitary confinement, is forced to sleep on the floor with only blankets as cushioning and was allowed to spend less time than other prisoners in the open-air prison yard on several occasions. Amnesty International, 6 November 2009, at <http://asvdh.net/3441>

Uganda

Passion for prisoners: The Voice reported on the passion and commitment of a 24-year old law graduate, magistrate and Director of the Africa Prison project, Alexander McClean, to improve the lives of prisoners in Africa. According to the report, Alexander McClean, found the Africa Prison Project, a charity organisation to improve the lives of prisoners. During a visit to Uganda's largest prison, Luzira Upper Prison, built by the British for 600 prisoners, but housed 2,400, he saw open sewers, teenagers on death row, and sick inmates that were treated in appalling conditions, receiving neither adequate care nor food. His visit has brought lifelong changes in the lives of prisoners. Reported by Marcia Dixon, 9 November 2009, The Voice, at

<http://www.voice-online.co.uk/content.php?show=16561>

Death row prisoners set free: The Supreme Court of Uganda has set free five death row prisoners, The Voice reported. The prisoners who were release after the decision of the Court are said to have spent 20 years in prison, since they were sentenced to death. The cCourt held that condemned inmates should either be executed within three years or their sentences should be commuted to life imprisonment. The Voice, 23 November 2009, at

<http://www.voice-online.co.uk/content.php?show=16666>

Kenya

Cholera kills 8 prisoners in Nairobi: It is reported that an outbreak of cholera has left 8 prisoners dead and about 25 others hospitalized. The Commissioner of Prisons, Isaiah Osugo, confirmed that "One died on Saturday night while the seven others died early this morning. There is a cholera outbreak at the prison". APF, 23 November 2009, The SOWETAN at

<http://www.sowetan.co.za/News/Article.aspx?id=1090759>

UNODC lauded for promoting prison health: According to a report from the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs Minister, Mr. Mutula Kilonzo, has thanked the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for their support to the prison, health and judicial systems and the promotion of the rule of law in the region. He was speaking during a Regional Ministerial Conference on Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security. According to the report, the Vice President, Mr. Kalonzo Musyoka, reiterated the need for regional cooperation in strengthening regional responses to transitional threats and strengthen the effectiveness of the criminal justice systems to make them fair, humane and consistent with various United Nations and African Union conventions, protocols, standards and norms. Reported by VPPS, 24 November 2009, at

<http://www.kbc.co.ke/story.asp?ID=61152>

Prison reform require unaffordable sum of money: The Ministry of Home Affairs Permanent Secretary, Dr Ludeki Chweya, was reported saying that prison reform requires a large sum of money which the government cannot afford. Dr. Chweya said "Prison reforms started last year following the release of the Madoka report" . . . "But some [prisons] need a lot of money which we do not have", he added. Daily Nation reported that the Madoka Committee had recommended radical reforms for the Prisons Department, including better houses and terms of service for warders. Reported by Walter Menya, 24 November 2009, Daily Nation, at

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/803162/-/vmul0e/-/>

Somalia

Woman calls for the release of her son from Guantanamo Bay prison: A Somali woman, Adar Mohammed Yusuf, has called for the release of her son, Guled Hassan Duran, from the notorious Guantanamo Bay prison, AfricaNews reported. Adar Mohammed Yusuf, 62, said "If my son is a terrorist, why isn't he charged accordingly in a court of law?" "I am calling on the Somali government and human rights groups to look at my son's case," she added. Hassan is one of the 200 prisoners held at the US-managed Guantanamo Bay prison. Reported by Muhyadin Ahmed Roble, November 23 2009, AfricaNews, at

http://www.africanews.com/site/Release_my_son_in_Guantanamo/list_messages/28187

Sudan

Children in prison: About 30 teenagers aged 13-17 who escaped from the Darfur war zone in Sudan have been imprisoned in Israel, Ynetnews.com reported. The government, which failed to take a decision on how to deal with them, placed them in the Givon Prison. The situation is worrying as the children do not have access to basic education. "I want to be like all the children my age. I have suffered enough and now I am in prison. I'm tired of this [...] situation," one of the children said. According to the report, the Social Affairs Ministry does not seem to be rushing to take responsibility and transfer these children from prison to boarding schools. Reported by Yael Branovsky, 20 November 2009, Ynetnews.com at

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3808162,00.html>

Six children on death row: The Mail & Guardian reported that six Sudanese children, who allegedly participated in a raid by rebels, are now on death row. United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, confirmed the case when he said "We have six from the attack on death row. However, more than 100 people are alleged to have been sentenced to death after being convicted of taking part in an attack by Darfur's rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on the Khartoum suburb of Omdurman in May last year. Reuters, 23 November 2009, Mail & Guardian, at

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-23-sudan-sentenced-children-to-die-over-rebel-raid>

Nigeria

Nigeria recruits prison health care workers: According to a report in NEXT, the Nigerian Prisons Service (NPS) is set to recruit more medical personnel as part of its efforts to provide good health care services to prisoners in the country. At the inauguration ceremony of a 20-bed hospital in Makurdi Medium Security prison, the Controller-General of Prisons, Olusola Adigun said "It is planned that these hospitals will eventually form the nucleus of prison reference hospitals to serve each of the country's six geopolitical zones." NEXT, 25 November 2009, at

http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/Home/5473634146/Nigerian_Prisons_Service_to_recruit_more.csp

Sierra Leone

SCSL hands prison facilities to Sierra Leone Prison Service: The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) has handed its detention facilities over to the Sierra Leone Prison Service as a gesture to upgrade prisons which do not meet international standards, Jurist reported. According to Jurist, the facilities will be used to improve the detention conditions of female prisoners. The inadequate facilities characterising Sierra Leone's prisons has prompted the SCSL to transfer eight men convicted of war crimes by the court to Rwanda to serve their prison terms there. Reported by Megan Mckee, 16 November 2009, Jurist, at

<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/paperchase/2009/11/sierra-leone-war-crimes-court-hands.php>

Sierra Leone Justice System benefits from SCSL services: The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) has handed to the Prison Department of Sierra Leone the keys to a new detention centre for female prisoners. According to the report, the detention centre will now house prisoners who are in the Pademba

Road prison. Reported by Betty Milton, 19 November 2009, Awoko, at <http://awoko.org/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=7256&cntnt01returnid=15>

Chad

Capacity building for prison workers: The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad MINURCAT has organised a training workshop for prison and penitentiary managers from the Central African Republic and Chad. The workshop, which took place in N'Djamena, drew participants from all over Chad, comprising 40 Heads of Prisons, mostly from eastern Chad. The Minister of Justice and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General also attended the workshop. Relief Web, 25 November 2009, at <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VVOS-7Y5N7Z?OpenDocument>

Zimbabwe

Government plans to build new prison schools: According to a report in The Herald, the government of Zimbabwe is planning to build secondary schools in all its prison complexes for children of staff. The announcement was made at a ceremony in Chikurubi prison where two classrooms built for the Chikurubi primary school were handed over. The director of Zimbabwe Prison Services Construction Unit, Assistant Commissioner Gabriel Dube, said "This decision has been made after we realised that our officers were facing challenges in paying boarding and school fees for their children. Government of Zimbabwe, 25 November 2009, The Herald, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/200911250095.html>

Tunisia

Imprisoned journalist get medical treatment in prison: According to France24, an imprisoned Tunisian Journalist was receiving treatment in his cell. According to the report, the Minister of Justice is quoted as saying that "his condition does not require hospital attention". According to the ministry in charge of prisons, the journalist is said to be suffering from Cushing's syndrome. Original report in French. AFP, 11 November 2009, France24, at <http://www.france24.com/fr/20091111-tunisie-ben-brik-dicalement-suivi-prison-pas-besoin-dh-pital>

Presidential pardons for GAFSA leaders: A report on the Romandie website stated that a group of Tunisian trade unionists in the mining region of Gafsa, south-west of Tunis, were released from prison following presidential pardons. Among those released was Adnan Hajji, spokesperson for the Movement of Social Protest of Gafsa. At least thirty-eight trade unionists were convicted and sentenced in February 2009 to prison terms ranging from two to eight years imprisonment following protests that rocked the mining region of Gafsa in 2008, Romandie reported. However, the total number granted presidential pardons was not disclosed. Original report in French. AFP, 5 November 2009, Romandie, at, <http://www.romandie.com/infos/news2/091105125754.3ld201t5.asp>

DRC

Court delays appeal ruling on death sentence: A report on IOL stated that the judgment of an appeal case of two Norwegians sentenced to death in the DRC is taking longer than expected. Tjostolv Moland, 28, and Joshua French, 27, are appealing the death sentences imposed on them by a lower court for the murder of their driver. Officials at the military court are reported to have said that the verdict had been delayed because judges are still preparing the ruling on the appeal. AFP, 28 November 2009, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20091128135201398C365166

92 prisoner escape from prison: A report in The Congo Tribune stated that two prisoners were killed and 92 others escaped in a mass prison escape from the Central Prison of Kindu. Taking advantage of "the fragility of the prison building, prisoners' broke the walls, removed the baked bricks" to escape. The Kindu Central Prison, built in 1955 housed 136 prisoners, including soldiers and policemen. Original Report in French, 4 November 2009, Congo Tribune, at <http://www.congotribune.com/2009/11/rdcongo-92->

detenus-sevadent-de-la-prison-centrale-de-kindu/

Fair use notice

CSPRI 30 Days/Dae/Izinsuku contains copyrighted material, the use of which has not always been specifically authorised by the copyright owner. The material is being made available for purposes of education and discussion in order to better understand prison and related issues in South Africa. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in relevant national laws. The material is made accessible without profit for research and educational purposes to subscribers/readers. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this Newsletter for purposes of your own that go beyond "fair use", you must obtain permission from the copyright owner. CSPRI cannot guarantee that the information contained in this newsletter is complete and correct or be liable for any loss incurred as a result of its use. Nor can the CSPRI be held responsible for any subsequent use of the material.

CSPRI welcomes your suggestions or comments for future topics on the email newsletter.

Tel: (+27) 021-9592950

<http://www.communitylawcentre.org.za/cspri>



[Subscribe Me](#) [Unsubscribe Me](#) [Change My Details](#) [Visit our website](#)

[Invite a Friend](#) [Terms and Conditions & Privacy](#) and [Anti-Spam Policy for subscribers](#)

Please report abuse to abuse@easimail.co.za

© Easimail 2009. All Rights Reserved.