



30 Days
Dae
Izinsuku

Project of the
Community
Law Centre

CSPRI "30 Days/Dae/Izinsuku" October 2010

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October 2010

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GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

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Prison warders charged with parole fraud: Volksblad reported that a former prison warder was evading the police and his trial for allegedly defrauding prisoners by pretending he could arrange early parole for them. The report said that Elias Nkosi and a colleague were being accused of taking R 260 000 from prisoners. The report also said that Nkosi did not appear in court and a warrant for his arrest was issued, but police has not succeeded in tracing him. *Original report in Afrikaans.* Reported by Frans Coetzee, Volksblad at <http://www.volksblad.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Oudbewaarder-ontwyk-polisie-verhoor-20101025>

UNSENTENCED PRISONERS

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Justice department claims more cases heard in High Courts: Buanews online reported that Justice Minister, Jeff Radebe, said that more than 1200 cases were finalised in High Courts across South Africa between 2009 and 2010. According to the report, this represents an increase of 12.5% cases compared to the previous year. The report also said that district courts had finalised 90% of their cases while

Regional Courts achieved a 74% conviction rate. Reported by Buanews online, 10 October 2010, at <http://www.buanews.gov.za/rss/10/10101014451002>

Attorney slams police for incompetence: Beeld reported that an attorney, specialising in claims related to unlawful arrest and imprisonment, said that police incompetence is escalating. It is reported that Robert van Wyk said that police officers simply do not know when to arrest. Citing Van Wyk the report said that policemen are being "placed in the streets without knowing the Criminal Procedure Act." The report also said that the Department faced claims for 19 460 police actions carried out in 2009. *Original report in Afrikaans.* Reported by Hilda Fourie, 15 October 2010, Beeld at <http://www.beeld.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Eisers-kry-R80-m-van-polisie-20101015>

Nigerian militant to be kept separately from other prisoners: The Citizen reported that a Nigerian former militant was being held at the Johannesburg Correctional Centre in connection with his involvement in a dual car bombing, which killed twelve people in Abuja in October 2010. According to the report, Mr. Henry Okah was being charged with terrorist activities, conspiracy to engage in terrorist activity and delivering, placing and detonating an explosive device. His lawyer said that Okah would be kept separately from other prisoners until his bail application was heard on 14 October 2010. Reported by the Citizen, 5 October 2010, at

http://www.citizen.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=130173&catid=80:breaking-news&Itemid=132

Eugene Terre'Blanche bail decision reserved: IOL reported that the North Gauteng High Court Judge, Julius Motojane, reserved his judgment on the state's appeal against the bail granted to one of the accused in Eugene Terre'Blanche's murder trial. According to the report, the court heard both Chris Muhlangu's defence lawyer and the state, which argued that it was wrong to have granted Muhlangu bail simply because he reported the murder to the police. Reported by Mail & Guardian, 6 October 2010, at <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-10-06-bail-appeal-suspended-in-terreblanche-trial> Another report said that Chris Muhlangu had been rearrested. IOL at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/terre-blanche-murder-accused-re-arrested-1.684439>

Attempts to revoke bail for threatening victim: It was reported that the state applied for a warrant of arrest for a Khayelitsha man, who had been released on bail after allegedly raping a seven year old boy. The report said that the man threatened to kill the victim and his family. It also said that the man's behaviour was unacceptable as it violated the bail conditions which had been established. Reported by Cape Times, 10 October 2010, at <http://capetimes.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

Prisoner goes on hunger strike: News24 reported that Willem Ratte, being held with other co-accused in connection with the possession of illegal firearms and dagga, had been on hunger strike since 1 October 2010. The report said that Ratte "wants all his charges to be dropped." Citing Ratte's friend, Edwin Clarke, the report also said that "he wants all their possessions returned and everything that was stolen by the police", including money donated to a humanitarian project associated with an organisation, which he runs. Reported by News24, 12 October 2010, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Ratte-goes-on-hunger-strike-20101012>

Special detention centre for awaiting trial prisoners: It was reported that the Correctional Services

Minister, Nosiviwe Mapisa Nqakula, announced major changes that will affect the department. Beside a special remand detention branch, which is to be created to deal with awaiting trial prisoners, they will now be called "remand detainees" and the maximum period for them to be kept in prison before their cases are concluded will be two years. The report said that the Minister voiced that the new policy will "compel everyone in the justice system to expedite the conclusion of cases and trials." Reported by Cape Argus, 30 October 2010, at <http://capeargus.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

PAROLE AND SENTENCING

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Constitutional Court denies leave to appeal for wife killer: It was reported that the Constitutional Court turned down an application brought by Gordon Lorimer, who sought leave to appeal against a six-year prison sentence imposed by the Blue Downs Regional Court in connection with the killing of his wife in 2008. The report said that Lorimer's lawyer had argued that a non-custodial sentence would be more appropriate as he was the primary care giver of his twin sons. It also said that the court refused the application, ruling that there were no reasonable prospects for success with the appeal. Reported by Cape Argus, 5 October 2010, at <http://capeargus.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

Former police commissioner files application for leave to appeal: It was reported that the former National Police Commissioner, Jackie Selebi, filed an application with the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) seeking an order to be granted leave to appeal against his conviction. The report said that the National Prosecuting Authority had until 29 October to respond to Selebi's 130-page affidavit. It also said that regardless of whether the petition would be accepted or not, the case would not be heard in 2010 as the SCA has a full roll for 2010. *Original report in Afrikaans.* Reported by Philip de Bruin, 8 October 2010, Die Burger at <http://www.dieburger.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Selebi-se-appel-aansoek-sal-eers-volgende-jaar-aangehoor-kan-word-20101007>

Constitutional Court strikes down Transkei law: The Herald reported that many prisoners serving sentences for committing violent crimes may appeal their sentences after the Constitutional Court struck down a Transkei law. The report said that the Constitutional Court found that the continued application of the Transkei Dangerous Weapons Act amounted to a violation of the Constitution as it had elements associated with the apartheid era. It also said that the Constitutional Court ordered the Director of Public Prosecutions to withdraw all pending charges brought under the this law. Reported by the Herald, 8 October 2010, at <http://www.theherald.co.za/article.aspx?id=613066>

DCS said Derby-Lewis parole decision scheduled for end October: IOL reported that the Department of Correctional Services said that Chris Hani's killer, Clive Derby-Lewis', final parole decision would be taken by the National Council on Correctional Services at the end of October 2010. The report also said that following the submission of his parole bid Derby-Lewis has had two operations to his leg and another operation to remove a cancerous growth from his head on 11 October 2010. Reported by IOL, 11 October 2010, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/derby-lewis-goes-for-another-op-1.685418>

Derby-Lewis faces serious health problems: Mail & Guardian online reported that Clive Derby-Lewis convicted for the killing of South African Communist Party general secretary Chris Hani, faced serious health problems. According to the report, Derby-Lewis's lawyer, Marius Coertze, said that "He is not going to be better, he will have permanent scars and health problems. On that basis and the fact that he

is already 74 years old, we will supplement with the medical report to strengthen the application. It will become an extra leg of his parole application."The report also said that Derby-Lewis's lawyer said that his health condition will become an extra leg of his parole application. Reported by Mail & Guardian online, 18 October 2010, at <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-10-18-derbylewis-has-serious-health-problems>

Presidential pardons - victims' submissions: Business Day reported that victims of politically motivated crimes were invited to make submissions to President Zuma on whether he should grant pardon to the perpetrators. The report said that the initiative followed a Constitutional Court decision in February 2010, which said that the President must hear the voices of the victims before he considers whether or not to grant pardons to perpetrators. Reported by Business Day, 18 October 2010, at <http://www.easimail.co.za/Home/link.asp?id=18498&hash=193a21>.

Prisoner rights group warns MP's on future parole predicaments: Business Day reported that Parliament's Correctional Services Committee was warned that the increase in prisoners serving life sentences in South Africa will soon place pressure on the already fragile parole system. The reports said that Mr. Lukas Muntingh of the Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative said that the number of prisoners serving life sentences increased from 400 in 1994/5 to more than 9700 in May 2010. He added that this number will accelerate since the jurisdiction of Regional Courts had been increased to impose life sentences. He said that in the near future this will add pressure to the National Council on Correctional Services, which will have to deal with parole for hundreds of prisoners serving life sentences. Reported by Wyndham Hartley, 20 October 2010, Business Day at <http://www.businessday.co.za/Articles/Content.aspx?id=124251>

Constitutional Court to hear mother challenge her imprisonment: Business Day reported that the Constitutional Court is expected to hear a mother's appeal against her imprisonment. The report said that the appellant has two children and is seeking to avoid imprisonment because of the effect it would have on her children. The report said that the court had ruled on a similar matter in 2007, and it had held that focused and informed attention needed to be given to the interest of children at appropriate moments in the sentencing process. The matter is scheduled for 9 November 2010. Reported by Business Day, 19 October 2010, at <http://www.businessday.co.za/>

Woman gets sentence reduced: Times Live reported that the 17-year sentence of a woman who was convicted for killing a 17- month old baby, was effectively reduced to twelve years. The report said that the sentence was reduced after Zaibonisha Herman appealed in the South Gauteng High Court against two of the charges against her. Reported by Times Live, 19 October 2010, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/article716605.ece/Killer-of-baby-Tammy-gets-reduced-sentence>

Bribe gets traffic officer behind bars: IOL reported that a Bronkhorstspuit traffic officer was convicted and sentenced to an effective six years in prison in connection with attempt to solicit a bribe from a Johannesburg High Court Judge. The report said upon sentencing Pretoria Regional Court Magistrate, Peet Johnson, said that "traffic officers are supposed to serve the public and not terrorise them by soliciting bribes." Reported by Hanti Otto, 23 October 2010, IOL at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/cop-gets-fine-of-her-own-6-years-in-jail-1.688203>

PRISON CONDITIONS

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Prisoners ask for circumcision: BBC News reported that prison authorities in KwaZulu-Natal said that many prisoners want to be circumcised to help fight the spread of HIV. The report said that more than 150 prisoners had already been circumcised, but still many volunteers were willing to be circumcised to help combat the spread of HIV. The report also said that the authorities had advised prisoners to undertake HIV test and to use condoms. Reported by BBC News, 29 October 2010, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-11652219>

SOUTH AFRICANS IMPRISONED ABROAD

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SA Professor imprisoned in New Zealand: The Sunday Times reported that Sean Davison, a Professor and head of the Department of Biotechnology's Forensic Laboratory at the University of the Western Cape, was arrested in connection with allegations of having assisted his mother to die. The report said that Prof. Davison's mother had been diagnosed with cancer and had suffered before she requested his assistance to die. Prof. Davison reportedly faces charges of attempted murder. Reported by Sunday times, 10 October 2010, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/article698431.ece/SA-prof-arrested-for-moms-mercy-killing>

Minister's wife possibly involved with drug mule in Brazil: The Mail & Guardian online reported that Marie Swanepoel, mother of Tessa Beetge who has been imprisoned in Brazil in connection with drug trafficking, told the Pietermaritzburg High Court that her daughter was recruited as a drug mule by the wife of the State Security Minister, Sheryl Cwele. The report also said that Beetge is serving a sentence of eight years in prison after ten kilograms of cocaine were found in her travelling language. Reported by Mail & Guardian online, 13 October 2010, at <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-10-13-cwele-recruited-my-daughter-court-told>

SA man imprisoned in Afghanistan appeals sentence: Beeld reported that a South African security specialist serving a 16-year sentence in Afghanistan had appealed his sentence. The report said that Phil Young was initially sentenced to five years for shooting an unruly Afghan security guard who threatened to kill his colleagues. The report also said that his lawyers filed the last appeal in the Supreme Court in mid-October 2010. *Original report in Afrikaans.* Reported Erika Gibson, 22 October 2010, Beeld at <http://www.beeld.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/SA-man-in-Afgaanse-tronk-hoopvol-20101022>

OTHER

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From a prisoner to poet: Mail & Guardian online reported that Lemon Andersen, an American poet, spoken-word artist and actor, recited poems at the Johannesburg prison. The report said that the American artist, who had come to participate in the 2010 annual Urban Voices Theatre and Poetry Festival, shared powerful personal experiences, including the fact that he is an ex-prisoner who had to learn the hard way to survive after he lost his mother when he was 15-years old. Reported by Karabo Keepile, 20 October 2010, Mail & Guardian online at <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-10-21-the-spit-king-back-behind-bars>

Extradition request - State withdraws temporarily: Cape Times reported that Janusz Leonard Lazarowicz, a millionaire and property developer wanted in Poland in connection with murder and organised crime, walked away from the Somerset West Magistrate Court, after the state's withdrawal of

its application to have him extradited. The report said that State Advocate JC Gerber had asked the state prosecutor to withdraw the application, arguing that the papers were not in order. The report said the Gerber has said that the state would ask the Polish Government to rectify the documents before it would resume with the same application. Reported the Cape Times, 20 October 2010, at <http://capetimes.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

Correctional Service has a new employment formula: Rapport reported that the Department of Correctional Services introduced a new employment policy setting out that 79.3% of all DCS staff and new recruits should be black. The report said that a memorandum issued by the National Commissioner, Tom Moyane said that "the policy will be strictly enforced." *Original report in Afrikaans.* Reported by Rapport, 23 October 2010, at <http://www.rapport.co.za/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Wit-bruin-en-Indier-benadeel-20101023>

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OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

ANGOLA

Angolan national dies in UK: It was reported that an Angolan national, Jimmy Mubenga, died when he was being deported from England. The report said that the police were investigating the conditions under which the man died. It also said that Mubenga had been in custody of a private security company, which was responsible for the deportation. Witnesses who were on the plane said that Mubenga had asked for help before he died. Reported by Paul Lewis and Mathew Taylor, 13 October 2010, [Guardia.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk) at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/oct/13/police-man-dies-deported-uk-angolan>

Serious concerns over mistreatment of political prisoners: The Guardian reported that Amnesty International voiced serious concerns over the handling of 37 political prisoners held in Luanda, Angola. According to the report, Amnesty International said that their health condition deteriorated "due to the persisting unsanitary conditions, insufficient and inadequate food and water and lack of medical treatment." It also said that the prisoners had been intermittently ill since they have been in custody. Reported by David Smith, 15 October 2010, The Guardian at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/oct/15/angola-human-rights>

BOTSWANA

Condoms in prisons cause controversy: Mmegi-Online reported that the question of whether condoms should be distributed or not in prison facilities has raised a fierce debate between the government and AIDS organisations. The report said that the tension between the government and AIDS civil society organisations begun when the Chairperson of the National AIDS Council, Mompoti Merathe, said that the government would not distribute condoms in prisons. It also said that the government contends that distributing condoms in prisons amounts to giving prisoners dagga as homosexuality is illegal in Botswana. Reported by Lekopanye Mooketsi, 5 October 2010, Mmegi online at <http://www.mmegi.bw/index.php?sid=1&aid=5380&dir=2010/October/Tuesday5>

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Bemba trial to proceed: News24 reported that the ICC trial of former Congo Vice-President, Jean-Pierre Bemba will start on 22 November 2010. The report said that Bemba is suspected of commanding a

militia group whose members killed and raped civilians in the Central African Republic between 2002 and 2003. It also said that the offences were committed before Bemba had become one of Congo's Vice-Presidents. Reported by News24, 21 October 2010, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Bemba-trial-to-start-on-Nov-22-20101021>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Canadian lawyer released: It was reported that the Congolese authorities released a Canadian lawyer who had been imprisoned for taking pictures of an incident where President Kabila's official convoy was stoned in September 2010. According to the report, lawyer Nicole Bondo Muaka and two women were released in early October 2010. Reported by IOL, 6 October 2010, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/lawyer-linked-to-kabila-saga-freed-1.684191>

Prisoners die of malnutrition: Radio Okapi reported that eight prisoners died in the central prison of Mwene-Ditu, Eastern-Kasaï. The report said that the prisoners died of malnutrition between September and October 2010. It said that among them were two young men of 18 and 25 years who were awaiting trial on theft charges. *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 5 October 2010, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/10/05/muene-ditu-trois-prisonniers-meurent-de-faim/>

Military and police officers accused of murdering prisoner: Radio Okapi reported that two soldiers and two police officers were arrested in connection with the killing of a prisoner who attempted to escape from Bunia prison on 6 October 2010. The report said that the deceased prisoner was a former DRC Armed Forces military officer who was serving a life sentence since August 2010 for killing his wife. The report also said that the deceased had negotiated his escape with officials hours before the escape. He was expected to pay the guards approximately USD 80.00. It was reported that he did not honour the deal, and was eventually shot during the escape. *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 8 October 2010, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/10/08/bunia-arrestation-de-deux-soldats-et-deux-policiers-accuses-de-meurtre/>

Provincial MP's deplore inhumane conditions in prisons: It was reported that a parliamentary commission, which had visited places of detention in the Eastern Kasaï, expressed serious concerns about the conditions of detention, available nutrition and the insufficient number of magistrates. The report said that the president of the commission concluded there was a need for immediate intervention. *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 9 October 2010, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/10/09/tshikapa-les-deputes-provinciaux-deplorent-les-conditions-inhumaines-dans-les-prisons/>

Police officer dies in prison: Radio Okapi reported that a police officer died in Ilebo prison following a short period of illness. The report said that the officer had been arrested following accusations that he had helped prisoners to escape. *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 11 October 2010, at <http://radiookapi.net/regions/kasai-occidental/2010/10/11/kasai-occidental-un-policier-meurt-dans-la-prison-dilebo/>

More than 20 children escape from Bunia prison: Radio Okapi reported that more than 20 children had

escaped from the central prison in Bunia, Eastern Province, on the night of 9-10 October 2010. The report said that the children escaped through pipes running from the prison. It also said that in the previous month nine children had escaped in the same manner. The report said that out of a total of more than 30 children, who were being held in the prison, only nine remained. *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 11 October 2010, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/10/11/plus-de-20-enfants-s%E2%80%99evadent-de-la-prison-de-bunia/>

Prison uprising - Buluwo, Katanga: It was reported that on 17 October 2010 prisoners at the high security prison in Buluwo started an up-rising. The report said that the up-rising was started mainly by prisoners who were convicted for violent crimes. Report sources said that the protest mainly concerned claims against the ill-treatment of prisoners. The report also said that the Director of the prison facility had suggested that prisoners were responding to increased security measures within the prison. *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 20 October 2010, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/10/20/katanga-des-prisonniers-se-soulevent-a-buluwo/>

Man who threw stone at President 'commits suicide' in prison: News24 reported that a man, Armand Tungulu, who was arrested for throwing a stone at President Joseph Kabila on 29 September 2010, was found dead in a cell after he was arrested by police. The report said that it is believed that Tungulu, "committed suicide." The report also said that some human rights NGO's have alleged that Tungulu was beaten by the president's bodyguards. Reported by News24, 4 October 2010, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/DRC-prisoner-commits-suicide-20101004>

EGYPT

State officials imprisoned over stolen painting: BBC News reported that an Egyptian court sentenced 11 officials from the Culture Ministry to three years imprisonment each in connection with the theft of a Van Gogh painting from a museum in Cairo. The report said that the Deputy Minister of Culture, Mohsen Shalan, and the Director of the museum were among the officials who were sentenced. The report also said that the men had been granted bail of approximately USD 1.500 pending an appeal on the case. Reported by BBC News, 12 October 2010, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-11529187>

ETHIOPIA

Opposition leader released from prison: BBC News reported that Birtukan Mideksa, a prominent Ethiopian opposition leader, was released from prison four months after the new government won the elections. The report said that Mideksa had been imprisoned for life after the 2005 Ethiopian elections. She was later released and rearrested for violating the terms of her release. The report also said that Mideksa, who had also been a judge, was released after she applied for a pardon. Reported by BBC News, 6 October 2010, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-11483828>

GAMBIA

Death penalty for possession of drugs: BBC News reported that Gambian authorities introduced harsher penalties for persons convicted of drug related crimes, including the death penalty for those found in possession of more than 250g of cocaine or heroin. The report said that the Attorney General,

Edward Gomez, said that the penalties seek to curb drug trafficking in the country. It also said that at least US\$ 1 billion worth of cocaine had been seized in the streets of The Gambia in June 2010. Reported by BBC News, 6 October 2010, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-11489200>

KENYA

Court rules against illegal renditions: All Africa.com reported that a Kenyan court ruled against the rendition of Kenyan suspects to Uganda following allegations that they had been involved in the July 2010 World Cup bombings in Kampala. The decision followed the rendition to Uganda of suspects allegedly involved in the bombings in July 2010. The report also said that Justice Aggrey Muchelule found that "terrorism action cannot be invoked to justify the deportation of Kenyan suspects to Uganda." Reported by Jillo Kadida, 1 October 2010, All Africa.com at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201010010012.html>

Eleven Somali's imprisoned for piracy: IOL reported that a Kenyan court sentenced eleven Somali nationals to five years imprisonment each for attempting to hijack a Liberian-flagged ship in 2009. The report said that the men were captured by an EU Navfor patrol ship and were handed to the Kenyan authorities for trial procedures. Reported by IOL, 1 October 2010, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/eleven-pirates-jailed-1.682762>

MALAWI

Many imprisoned for witchcraft: Mail & Guardian online reported that many people were being imprisoned in Malawi on allegations of witchcraft. The report said that elderly women are often the victims of imprisonment with sentences of up to six years. The report also said that campaigners sought to call upon president Bingu wa Mutharika to release 86 prisoners who had been imprisoned in connection with witchcraft. Reported by Mail & Guardian online, 15 October 2010, at <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-10-15-dozens-jailed-for-witchcraft-in-malawi>

MOZAMBIQUE

17 Prisoners escape from the Nampula prison: Angola Press reported that 17 prisoners escaped from Nampula prison on 11 October 2010. According to the report, only one of the escapees had been rearrested by the police. The report also said that the escapees had escaped shortly after they arrived at the Nampula prison, where they were been transferred from other prisons in the region. *Original report in Portuguese.* Reported by the Angola Press, 12 October 2010, at http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/pt_pt/noticias/africa/2010/9/41/Dezassete-reclusos-fogem-cadeia-Nampula,d7104198-68b5-4e28-8baf-7acc2a10dc1c.html

Prison management manual launched: All Africa.com reported that the Director of the International Centre for Prison Studies at Kings College, Rob Allen, launched a Manual on Prison Management. The report said the manual explains how prisons should be run on a human rights based approach. It also said that the manual sets out international law principles and norms and defines their meaning in practice for those who bear political and technical responsibilities for prisons and those who work in prison settings. Reported by All Africa.com, 6 October 2010, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201010060924.html>

NIGERIA

Prisoners on death row excluded from 50th celebrations: All Africa.com reported that 920 Nigerian prisoners on death row may be excluded from the country's 50th independence anniversary. According to the report, the fate of these prisoners hangs in the balance as they are waiting to be executed, but hope that President Goodluck Jonathan will grant amnesties in the spirit and mood of the celebrations. Reported by All Africa.com, 1 October 2010, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201010010171.html>

Youth corps member builds clinic for prisoners: The Next reported that a Nigerian youth corps member built a clinic for prisoners at the Olokuta Maximum Prison. The report said that Mr. Babatunde Ogundare was moved to undertake the generous act when he saw that the prison facility was overcrowded and prisoners were exposed to a range of diseases. The report said that the generous act had benefited the contribution of other individuals who shared the same vision. Reported by Ayodeji Moradeyo, 6 October 2010, Next at http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/News/5627155-147/corps_member_builds_clinic_for_prisoners.csp

Former Bank CEO imprisoned: BBC News reported that a former Nigerian bank CEO, Cecilia Ibru, was sentenced to six months in prison for fraud, which led to the near collapse of nine banks in Nigeria in 2009. The report said that Ibru, who was being held with other senior members of the bank's executive, was also ordered to hand over USD 1.2 billion in cash and assets. It also said that her sentence was a result of a settlement agreement on the case. Reported by BBC News, 9 October 2010, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-11506421>

Charles Okah imprisoned: BBC News reported that Charles Okah, brother of Henry Okah who is being investigated in connection with two car bombings in Abuja, was arrested in the city of Lagos in mid-October 2010. According to the report, Charles Okah is suspected of having assisted in the fatal car bombings. The report also said that his brother Henry, who was arrested in South Africa, is also facing terrorism charges in connection to the bombings. Reported by BBC News, 17 October 2010, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-11560907>

SIERRA LEONE

Prisons benefit from rehabilitation funding: IRIN Africa reported that the government of Sierra Leone has allocated approximately USD 420 000 to refurbish the country's prison department. The information was disclosed by A.C. Ngaujah, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, during a visit to the Prison Department in early October 2010. The report also said that the funding was in line with the government's commitment to improve prison conditions. Reported by IRIN AFRICA, 4 October 2010, at <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=16830>

SUDAN

President concedes pardon: It was reported that the South Sudanese President, Salva Kiir, pardoned four men accused of attacking the Southern Sudanese region. According to the report the decision was made at a time when the strongest party in the South Sudanese region is striving to heal the political divisions in the build-up process to the planned January 2011 referendum . Reported by IOL, 7 October 2010, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/pardon-for-sudan-renegades-1.684329>

ICC requests Kenya to arrest al-Bashir: Mail & Guardian reported that the ICC had requested the Kenyan authorities to arrest Sudanese President, Omar al-Bashir, on his visit to Kenya in late October 2010. The report said that the ICC had asked Kenya to report before 29 October whether there was any obstacle to the arrest of al-Bashir. The report also said that the call to arrest al-Bashir had followed the ICC issuance of two warrants of arrest in March 2009 and in July 2010. Reported by Mail & Guardian online, 28 October 2010, at <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-10-26-icc-asks-kenya-to-act-on-albashir-arrest-warrants>

UGANDA

Care group gives hope to prisoners: It was reported that a care group from the organisation Havens Hospices, visited Uganda to provide advice to the African Prisons Project on ways to improve care in the country's prison facilities. The report said that, among others, the project is concerned with restoring prisoners' dignity and helping them to access medical facilities and learning opportunities. Reported by Echo News, 15 October 2010, at http://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/8449896.Havens_give_hope_to_prisoners_in_Africa/

Prisoners speak out on conjugal rights: Daily Monitor reported that prisoners at the Luzira Maximum Prison engaged with students from the Bishop Cipriano Kinhangire School on the question of whether or not prisoners should have conjugal rights. The report said that among the questions that were discussed, the prisoners spoke about whether they were allowed to have sex with their partners and whether incarceration and denial of conjugal rights amounted to double punishment. Reported by Flavia Nalubega, 15 October 2010, Daily Monitor at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1033218/-/cmg6tlz/-/>

Women imprisoned over husband's loans: It was reported that the 2009 Ugandan Human Rights Commission (UHRC) report revealed that women in Ntungamo district were being imprisoned due to the failure of their husbands to repay loans. The report said that due to the high interest rates charged, borrowers were not able to repay loans to many private lenders. It also said that the wives of the borrowers had witnessed the loan agreements and were therefore being charged with securing money under false pretences after their husbands failed to repay the loans and fled. Reported by the New Vision, 25 October 2010, at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/13/736122>

ZAMBIA

More judges expected to help fast delivery of justice: The Times of Zambia reported that Prison Fellowship of Zambia (PFZ), a prisoner support organisation, has said that the appointment of new judges should help improve the speedy delivery of justice in the country. Citing Bishop Silwamba from the PFZ the report said that "this step, no doubt, demonstrates the government's commitment to improve the slow delivery of justice currently being experienced" in the country. Reported by Margaret Mangani, 6 October 2010, at <http://www.times.co.zm/news/viewnews.cgi?category=8&id=1285835280>

Former minister denied bail: The Times of Zambia reported that the Lusaka High Court refused to grant bail to former Land Affairs Minister, Gladys Nyirongo, who was sentenced to two years imprisonment for forgery and abuse of office. The report said that the court did not find in the application any exceptional circumstance which justified the granting of bail. It also said that Nyirongo had, however,

argued that she did not represent any threat of escape or defeating the ends of justice. Reported by Times of Zambia, 13 October 2010, at

<http://www.times.co.zm/news/viewnews.cgi?category=6&id=995288716>

ZIMBABWE

Soldier challenges imprisonment without trial: All Africa.com reported that a Zimbabwean soldier challenged his imprisonment without trial. According to the report, Sergeant Elijah Tomeke, who was arrested in 2009, has been in prison for eleven months pending a court martial's decision over the alleged breach of security and failure to report a criminal case. The report said his lawyers had filed an application to the Supreme Court challenging his superior's decisions. Reported by Daniel Nemukuyu, 5 October 2010, All Africa.com at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201010050021.html>

Prison Department joins NGO's to improve services: All Africa reported that the Zimbabwean Prison Services joined Save the Children and UNICEF to improve the conditions in female prisons in the country. It was also reported that it is expected that the partnership will help to improve services and new facilities may be built to house children of imprisoned mothers. Reported by All Africa.com, 8 October 2010, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201010080387.html>

EU funds for Zimbabwean prisons: It was reported that the European Union contributed funds to improve prison conditions in Zimbabwe. The report said that the EU Ambassador, Aldo Dell'Araccia, said that the EU believes that the funds will "make a substantial difference to the more than 13 000 prisoners in the country's prisons." The report also said that the EU released USD 700 000 to improve the overcrowded and filthy prisons in Zimbabwe. Reported by Radio Vop, 18 October 2010, at <http://news.radiovop.com/index.php/national-news/4706-eu-gives-funds-to-improve-zim-prison-conditions.html>

Diamond researcher finally freed: All Africa.com reported that the state withdrew charges against Zimbabwe diamond researcher, Farai Maguwu. The report said that Maguwu had been charged for disseminating false documents which alleged that security services were involved in human rights abuses at the Chiadzwa diamond fields. It also said that the charges against Maguwu were withdrawn after prosecutor Tapiwa Kasema said that "the state wanted to finalise its investigations." Reported by All Africa.com, 22 October 2010, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201010220109.html>

Officials admit hardship in female prisons: It was reported that a top official of the Zimbabwean Prison Services (ZPS) admitted that Zimbabwean prisons are a harsh environment for female prisoners. The report said ZPS Commissioner, Pradzayi Zimondi, told journalists that there is a need to build new prisons for juveniles and for females with children. The report said that Zimondi noted that most prison facilities were old and were not appropriate to cater for such prisoners. Reported by Vladimir Mzanca, 31 October 2010, Times Live at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/article735018.ece/Prisons-harsh-on-female-inmates-say-officials>

OTHER

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Dubai allows extraditions of former Nigerian Governor: The Jurist reported that a court in Dubai had allowed the

extradition of a former Nigerian Governor of the Delta State, James Ibori, in connection with charges of money laundering. The report said that Ibori is suspected of filtering money of the oil-rich Delta state to banks in UK. The report also said that the UK Metropolitan Police had issued a warrant for his arrest. Reported by the Jurist, 17 October 2010, at <http://jurist.org/paperchase/2010/10/UAE-court-allows-extradition-of-ex-Nigeria-state-governor-to-UK.php>

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