

In this Issue:

[GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION](#)

[UNSENTENCED PRISONERS](#)

[PRISON CONDITIONS](#)

[REHABILITATION](#)

[PAROLE AND SENTENCING](#)

[SOUTH AFRICANS IMPRISONED ABROAD](#)

[OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES](#)

GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

Wasteful expenditure criticised: allAfrica.com reported that the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services criticised the Department of Correctional Services for “wasting” more than R500 million on consultants, contractors and outsourced services during the 2010/2011 financial year. Reported by allAfrica.com, 7 December 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112070292.html>

“Corrupt” tender contract extended: News24.com reported that the Department of Correctional Services was considering extending a multi-million rand catering tender which was awarded to Bosasa Operations without following the correct tender procedures. According to the terms of the tender, Bosasa will provide catering services to seven management areas countrywide. Reported by Adriaan Basson, 29 January 2012, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/Politics/Prisons-may-extend-corrupt-tender-20120128-2>

Calls to probe prison catering contract: IOL reported that the Democratic Alliance called for a probe into the extension by the Department of Correctional Services of a three-year contract to Bosasa Operations provide services to seven management areas around South Africa. Reported by Sue Segar, 31 January 2012, at <http://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/news/probe-corrupt-prison-catering-contract-da-1.1223792>

UNSENTENCED PRISONERS

Remand detainee remains untreated: IOL reported that a 34-year-old remand detainee at Goodwood Prison, who claims he was raped during October 2011, has not yet received counselling, an HIV test or post-exposure prophylaxis. The prisoner expressed fears that he might have contracted a sexually transmitted disease. Reported by Esther Lewis, 12 December 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/prisoner-claims-rape-was-left-untreated-1.1196848>

PRISON CONDITIONS

Prisoners donate art work: The New Age reported that prisoners from the Mangaung Correctional Centre donated art work to Tshepong Victim Support Centre as part of the prison’s participation in 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. The prisoners also donated cupboards and couches which they had manufactured. Reported by Getrude Makhafola, 8 December 2011, at http://www.thenewage.co.za/37369-1018-53-Prisoners_brighten_up_victims'_area

Preferential treatment criticised: Eye Witness News reported the South African Prisoners’ Organisation for Human Rights castigated the decision by authorities to provide Jackie Selebi with dialysis while other prisoners in similar situations are not accorded the same treatment. Reported by Andrea van Wyk, 1 January 2012, at <http://www.eyewitnessnews.co.za/Story.aspx?Id=79948>

Prison evacuated: The New Age reported that more than 300 prisoners had been moved from C-Max Prison in Pretoria to multiple correctional services facilities across Gauteng due to the maximum security facility requiring renovations. The prisoners will reportedly return once the renovations have been completed. Reported by Itumeleng Mafisa, 24 January 2012, at http://www.thenewage.co.za/41214-1009-53-CMax_stays_empty_as_renovation_goes_on

REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation through sport: The Citizen reported that Nedbank is funding a rehabilitation programme in which prisoners at Pretoria Central Prison are encouraged to participate in sport and athletics. Reported by Rod Knight, 9 December 2011, at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=245602&sn=Detail&pid=146826&Sport-a-key-in-prisoner-rehabilitation-->

Prisoners accepted into tertiary institution: IOL reported that twenty five prisoners had completed their schooling through the Usethubeni Youth School at Durban Westville Prison. The school reportedly achieved a 83 percent pass rate and two of the pupils have been accepted to study at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Reported by Wendy Jasson da Costa, 6 January 2012, at <http://www.iol.co.za/mercury/jailed-men-come-through-with-flying-colours-1.1208866>

PAROLE AND SENTENCING

Fresh bid for parole: IOL reported that Clive Derby-Lewis, serving a life sentence for his part in the killing of Chris Hani, will once again return to the Pretoria High Court in an attempt to be released on parole. His lawyer confirmed that they would launch an application for an order directing that the decision refusing to release him on parole be set aside. Reported by Zelda Venter, 7 December 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/hani-killer-to-launch-fresh-bids-for-parole-1.1193725>

Comparison unfair: News24.com reported that in response to queries into the condition of former Police Commissioner Jackie Selebi's health, the Commissioner of Correctional Services had said that it was "unfair" to compare Jackie Selebi to Schabir Shaik (who is on medical parole) as Selebi had not applied for medical parole even though he was seriously ill. Reported by [news24.com](http://www.news24.com), 28 December 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Unfair-to-compare-Selebi-to-Shaik-20111228>

SOUTH AFRICANS IMPRISONED ABROAD

660 held abroad: Times Live reported that South Africa has a "staggering" 660 citizens imprisoned in foreign prisons for drug-related offences. Reported by Prega Govender, 18 December 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2011/12/18/sa-has-660-held-abroad-for-drugs>

Envoy visits South Africans imprisoned abroad: IOL reported that the South African ambassador to Thailand, Douglas Gibson, visited 12 South Africans convicted of drug smuggling imprisoned in Thai prisons. Eleven of the 12 South Africans are women. Reported by Bheki Mbanjwa and Slindile Maluleka, 27 December 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/news/sa-envoy-visits-drug-mules-in-thailand-jails-1.1204640>

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

ANGOLA

New facility for young offenders: Angola Press reported that the country's first prison for young offenders, which is being built in Wako Kungo City, will start functioning during 2012. The prison will reportedly have the capacity to accommodate 800 people and will include professional and technical training, as well as agricultural facilities. Reported by Angola Press, 2 January 2012, at http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2012/01/First-prison-for-young-offenders-starts-functioning-this-year.0a2318ff-6e00-4227-8579-b5b5fd68caf8.html

Prison hospital repaired: Angola Press reported that the repair and expansion of the São Paulo Prison Hospital will enable the institution to take care of prisoners' health concerns. Reported by Angola, 9 December 2011, at http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2011/11/49/Prison-Hospital-improve-inmates-conditions.f7b2a62a-c5bd-4ed9-a4c8-ba13837c8b7f.html

BURUNDI

Remand detainees challenge detention: RFI reported that 23 detainees, charged with terrorism, had challenged the legality of their detention describing it as "inhumane and arbitrary." The detainees are still being held in police cells and, according to their lawyers, should be transferred to a penitentiary facility. Reported by RFI, 6 January 2012, at <http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20120106-burundi-le-proces-23-prevenus-terrorisme-encore-stade-questions-procedure> Original report in French.

CAMEROON

Prisoners make a living with “chores”: Jade Cameroun reported that the central prison of Yabassi encourages financial autonomy for prisoners by providing payment for the performing of various jobs around the prison. The prison management is reportedly attempting to ensure that labour is not afflictive in nature and will increase the ability of prisoners to earn an honest living after release. Reported by Christian Locka, Jade Cameroun, 23 December 2011, at <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=217> Original report in French.

Administrative error adds time to sentence: Jade Cameroun reported that a prisoner initially sentenced to seven years in prison, remains incarcerated 16 years later. This was reportedly the result of documentation and the original sentencing judgment having been lost. The report notes that whenever he attempted to be heard on this matter, he was asked for unaffordable bribes. Reported by Guy Modeste Dzudie, Jade Cameroun, 4 January 2012, at <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=221> Original report in French.

New Bell Prison’s female section in good condition: Jade Cameroun reported that the women’s section at New Bell prison is kept clean and is in good condition as a result of the support of the European Union and the continued efforts of the prisoners themselves. However, food supply is reportedly very poor and there are hardly any activities to occupy the women. Reported by Anne Matho, Jade Cameroun, 17 January 2012, at <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=223> Original report in French.

Death row prisoner seeks pardon: Jade Cameroun reported that a prisoner who was sentenced to death in 1987 for aggravated robbery, is seeking a Presidential Pardon. Many other death row prisoners have reportedly been pardoned over the years. The report notes that the prisoner recently resubmitted a petition for a pardon to the Minister of Justice, referring to Decree 99/294 which calls for the conversion of death sentences into sentences of life imprisonment. Reported by Guy Modeste Dzudie, Jade Cameroun, 25 January 2012, at <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=225> Original report in French.

Project to cater for young prisoners: Afrique en Ligne reported that a musician of Cameroonian origin, Olivier Cheuwa, recently launched the second edition of the project “Soul Care”, aimed at raising money to cater for young African prisoners. The project, launched in Dakar, involves three artists who organise concerts to raise money to provide prisoners with clothing and food. Reported by Afrique en ligne, 18 January 2012, at <http://www.afriquejet.com/project-society-2012011831719.html>

Commitment to combat torture: allAfrica.com reported that the authorities in Cameroon have committed to tackle all forms of torture by ratifying international guidelines on the fight against torture. This commitment was reportedly the outcome of a three day conference in January 2012. Reported by allAfrica.com, 26 January 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201260884.html>

CHAD

Planned renovations of Chadian prisons: Le Post reported that the Minister of Justice announced government plans to renovate all prisons across the country in order to improve conditions of detention. The report notes that issues such as nutrition, sanitation and health care require immediate attention. Reported by D.D., Le Post, 8 December 2011, at http://archives-lepost.huffingtonpost.fr/article/2011/12/08/2655722_le-regime-deby-veut-renover-les-prisons-du-tchad-meme-celle-de-koro-toro.html Original report in French.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Prisoners killed: The Guardian reported that nine prisoners were killed in a failed attempt to escape prison when one of the escapees reportedly pulled the pin of a grenade but failed to throw it. Investigations were underway to establish how a prisoner managed to acquire a grenade. Reported by the Guardian, 1 January 2012, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jan/01/congo-prisoners-killed-grenade-blunder?INTCMP=SRCH>

Release of detainees following mass arrests: Radio Okapi reported that 56 detainees were released from the central prison of Mbuji-Mayi between 14 and 16 December 2011. Those released had been arrested during riots related to the elections, but could not be detained further as there was insufficient evidence to sustain charges against them. Reported by Radio Okapi, 18 December 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2011/12/18/violences-electorales-56-personnes-liberees-de-la-prison-centrale-de-mbuji-mayi-2/>

Nine deaths in Mwene-Ditu prison: Radio Okapi reported that nine prisoners died in December 2011 at the central prison of Mwene-Ditu, due to a lack of food and medication. The Provincial Minister of Justice reportedly stated that he would send a delegation to identify a solution for this problem. Reported by Radio Okapi, 31 December 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2011/12/31/mbuji-mayi-9-morts-dans-la-prison-centrale-de-mwene-ditu/> Original report in French.

Prisoners die in attempted escape: Radio Okapi reported that eight prisoners died and 50 were injured in an attempted escape at Bukavu prison on 1 January. The report reiterated that attempted escapes are becoming chronic in the DRC's penitentiary system, mainly because of poor conditions of detention and dilapidated infrastructure. Reported by Radio Okapi, 1 January 2012, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2012/01/01/tentative-devasion-9-morts-pres-de-50-blesses-dans-la-prison-de-bukavu/> Original report in French.

NGO deplors conditions of detention in Uvira: Radio Okapi reported that a human rights watchdog in South-Kivu criticised the conditions of detention in the central prison of Uvira, stating in its most recent report that a high risk of serious infections due to overcrowding were threatening the health and safety of prisoners. Reported by Radio Okapi, 2 January 2012, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2012/01/02/uvira-des-ong-denoncent-les-conditions-de-detention-dans-la-prison-centrale/> Original report in French.

EGYPT

Calls for investigation into mass prison killings: The Daily News reported that the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights had called on the United Nations and African Commission to intervene in alleged mass killings of prisoners during the Egyptian uprising. Reported by Dalia Rabie, 27 December 2011, at <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/human-a-civil-rights/rights-group-resorts-to-un-african-commissions-as-investigation-into-prisoner-mass-killings-drags.html>

Pledge to release prisoners: CBC reported that Egypt's military rulers have pledged to release more than 1,900 prisoners tried and convicted in military courts in commemoration of the revolution that toppled Hosni Mubarak. Reported by CBC, 24 January 2012, at <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2012/01/24/egypt-anniversary-looms.html>

ETHIOPIA

Heavy sentences for Ethiopian journalists: Voice of America reported that an Ethiopian court sentenced three journalists (Elias Kifle, Reeyot Alemu and Woubshet Taye) to long prison sentences for terrorism-related offences. Reported by Voice of America, 30 January 2012, at <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Ethiopia-Sentences-3-Journalists-to-Long-Prison-Terms-138214754.html>

GUINEA

Call to reform prison system: IEWY News reported that Human Rights Watch called on authorities to reform the country's prison system which is reportedly characterised by a shortage of personnel, insufficient infrastructure, overcrowding, poor diet, inadequate medical care and prolonged pre-trial detention. Reported by Linda Campell, 1 January 2012, at <http://www.iewy.com/38872-guinea-intensify-attention-to-human-rights-challenges.html>

KENYA

Inmates given training in financial management: The Standard reported that more than 960 inmates at the Naivasha Maximum Prison graduated from a 12-week financial literacy training programme organised by Equity Bank. The training equipped inmates who are about to complete their prison terms with basic financial management and related entrepreneurial skills. Reported by Jackson Okoth, 20 January 2012, at <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/InsidePage.php?id=2000049895&cid=14&j=&m=&d>

LIBERIA

Prison relocated: allAfrica.com reported that Monrovia Central Prison, designed to accommodate 350 prisoners, is home to 920 prisoners. The prison will thus be relocated to a larger area and additional facilities built in order to improve conditions. Reported by Abbas Dulleh, 29 December 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112290900.html>

Gifts for prisoners: The New Democrat News reported that President Johnson-Sirleaf donated several bags of rice, cartons of fish, mattresses and many pairs of shower slippers to inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison as part of preparations for the celebration of the Christmas holiday. Reported by [newdemocratnews.com](http://www.newdemocratnews.com), 29 January 2011, at <http://www.newdemocratnews.com/index.php/component/content/article/44-the-executive/1072-press-sirleaf-meets-inmates-on-christmas>

LIBYA

Call for authorities to ensure fair judicial processes: IEWY News reported that Human Rights Watch has expressed concerns to the transitional government regarding detainees being "held outside the legal system." It emphasised the need for the authorities to ensure that Libya has a functional criminal justice system and that detainees are brought before the courts. Reported by [iewy.com](http://www.iewy.com), 1 January 2012, at <http://www.iewy.com/38880-libya-make-urgent-justice-system-reforms.html>

Torture of prisoners prevalent: The BBC reported that prisoners interviewed at a prison in Misrata alleged to have been beaten, whipped and given electric shocks. Reported by the BBC, 28 January 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world->

[africa-16771372](#)

Torture allegations: CTV reported that the Libyan judicial police had started taking control of makeshift prisons in the country after human rights organizations complained of the “rampant torture of inmates.” Reported by CTV News, 29 January 2012, at <http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/World/20120129/libya-prisons-torture-militias-20120129/>

MALAWI

Drop in mortality rate: The Sunday Times reported that 34 prisoners died in the country's 31 prisons in 2011 due to HIV related ailments such as, tuberculosis, malaria, anaemia and pneumonia. Prison authorities confirmed that the mortality rate represented a 26 per cent drop compared to 2010 when 46 prisoners died. Reported by Clement Chinoko, 1 January 2012, at <http://www.bnltimes.com/index.php/sunday-times/headlines/national/3321-34-prisoners-die>

Strike shuts down courts: News24 reported that a strike on 9 January 2012 by 2 000 Malawian judicial workers over working conditions and poor salaries brought courts to a stand-still, affecting detainees awaiting trial. Reported by [news24.com](http://www.news24.com), 9 January 2012, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Malawi-judicial-strike-shuts-down-courts-20120109>

Prisoners appeal for improved services: The Sunday Times reported that prisoners at Chichiri Prison appealed to the government to facilitate access to education and health care. In addition, appeals were made for professional teachers and learning materials. The prisoners made the appeal during a public discussion forum held at the prison as part of the commemoration of the International Day of Human Rights. Reported by Justice Mponda, 12 December 2011, at http://www.bnltimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2904:prisoners-demand-quality-education-health-care&catid=58:national-&Itemid=386

MALI

ICC and Mali sign agreement: Africa Business reported that the International Criminal Court and the Republic of Mali had concluded an agreement in which Mali agreed to accommodate prisoners sentenced by the International Criminal Court. Reported by Africa Business, 20 January 2012, at http://www.africasia.com/services/news_africa/article.php?ID=CNG.972d5530050a245099d94a3baa5fed6b.201

NIGERIA

Dietary concerns raised: The Tribune reported that prisoners at the Maximum Prison in Lagos State continue to complain of inadequate health care and the fact that much of the food meant for prisoners is being redirected to shops run by prison officials. Reported by Adebayo Waheed, 6 December 2011, at <http://tribune.com.ng/index.php/news/32335-kirikiri-prisoners-lament-inadequate-feeding-health-care>

Lengthy remand detention: allAfrica.com reported that 146 remand detainees are languishing at Kirikiri Maximum Prison waiting to be formally charged and tried by the courts. Some detainees have been in remand detention for almost eleven years. Reported by allafrica.com, 13 December 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112130754.html>

Overcrowding of prisons: The Daily Times reported that the Controller, Nigeria Prisons Service, solicited the state government's assistance in decongesting the three prisons in the area. The congestion is reportedly caused by the slow criminal justice administration. Reported by The Daily Times, 16 January 2012, at <http://dailytimes.com.ng/article/speed-criminal-justice-administration-prison-controller>

RWANDA

Joint pact signed: The Monitor reported that prison authorities from Uganda and Rwanda have agreed to establish a joint committee to help the two countries improve service delivery in their facilities. Under the arrangement, there will be sharing of information on best practices in relation to training, prison designs, environment management as well as rehabilitation programmes. Reported by Ephraim Kasozi, 8 December 2011, at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1285982/-/bg6gkyz/-/>

SENEGAL

Senegal to free female prisoners: Africa News reported that the President directed Senegalese prison officials to release all women prisoners serving minor prison sentences in the country's prisons by 20 January 2012. Reported by Buya Jammeh, 5 January 2012, at http://www.africanews.com/site/Senegal_to_free_women_convicts/list_messages/40787

HIV/AIDS in Senegalese prisons: IPS News reported that cultural practices are fuelling the spread of HIV/AIDS in prisons across Senegal as men of the Muslim faith are reluctant to use condoms. A former prisoner is alleged to have initiated a programme of promoting safe sex in order to try and curb the problem. Reported by Amanda Fortier, 5 January 2012, at <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=106376>

NGO assists inmates: Voice of America reported that Cibiti, a local non-government organization, is working in prisons

across Senegal with the aim of improving living conditions for prisoners by providing access to proper nutrition, education and healthcare. Reported by Voice of America, 26 January 2012, at <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Local-Aid-Groups-Improve-Life-in-Senegals-Only-Child-Prison-138128463.html>

SIERRA LEONE

Donation made to prison: The Awareness Times reported that the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organisations donated used clothes, toothpastes, toothbrushes and soaps worth thousands of Leones to inmates detained at the Special Court of Sierra Leone during December 2011. Reported by Aruna Turay, 8 December 2011, at http://news.sl/drwebsite/publish/article_200519336.shtml

SWAZILAND

NGO assisting former prisoners: The Times reported that Prison Fellowship Swaziland is engaged in helping ex-offenders use the skills acquired in prison for the purpose of earning a living. It is hoped that this project will assist in reducing the recidivism rate. Reported by Sthembile Hlatshwayo, 9 December 2011, at <http://www.times.co.sz/News/35510.html>

Prison visits permitted: The Observer reported that the Commissioner for Correctional Services has been lauded for his decision to allow friends and relatives of prisoners to visit the prisons. Reported by Simon Shabangu, 10 January 2012, at <http://www.observer.org.sz/index.php?news=34144>

TANZANIA

Plight of children detainees highlighted: The Citizen reported that a study undertaken by the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance estimated that 1400 children are being held in various prison centres in Tanzania. The report added that the conditions in which the children are detained are “punitive” and fall short of facilitating their reintegration into society. Reported by Bernard James, 29 January 2012, at <http://thecitizen.co.tz/sunday-citizen/-/19343-special-report-behind-the-walls-of-juvenile-detention-centres-in-tanzania>

TUNISIA

Prisoners benefit from general amnesty: Tunisia Live reported that President Moncef Marzouki recently granted a general amnesty to thousands of detainees in Tunisian prisons in honour of the first anniversary of the Tunisian Revolution. 122 of those granted amnesty were prisoners who had been sentenced to death. Reported by Sana Ajmi, 20 January 2012, at <http://www.tunisia-live.net/2012/01/20/tunisia-human-rights-activist-president-to-abolish-death-penalty/>

UGANDA

Appeal for funding: The New Vision reported that the medical officer in charge of Luzira Prison Clinic appealed to government to allocate more funds in the prison’s health budget in order to fight HIV/AIDS infections among prisoners in a more sustained and vigorous manner. Reported by Petride Mudoola, 2 December 2011, at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/242078-hiv-prevalence-high-among-inmates.html>

Crime fighting methods questioned: The Monitor reported that the law enforcement approach in Uganda appears to favour imprisonment as opposed to other methods means of dealing with crime. Between 2004 and 2008, the number of prisoners reportedly increased from 18,328 to 21,942. Almost 55 per cent of the prisoners are in remand detention. Reported by Rogers Kasirye, 12 December 2011, at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/OpEd/Commentary/-/689364/1287966/-/12oblkyz/-/>

Prison school appeals for funding: UG Pulse reported that prison authorities have called on the government to include Luzira Upper Prison Primary School as one of the government schools that receive funding from the Ministry of Education and Sports. The report noted that the school depends on the meagre resources from the prisons authority and volunteers. Reported by UG Pulse, 19 January 2012, at <http://www.ugpulse.com/uganda-news/government/luzira-upper-prison-school-appeals-for-funding/23651.aspx>

Presidential pardon delayed: New Vision reported that despite the Prisons Department having submitted candidates for presidential pardons, the Prerogative of Mercy Committee is not in a position to facilitate presidential pardons as its term of office had expired. Reported by Petride Mudoola, 16 January 2012, at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/628392-Committee-delays-presidential-pardon-on-inmates.html>

161 children in prisons with mothers: New Vision reported the Prison Department currently accommodates 161 children alongside their mothers. It is seeking funds, however, to care for these children as newly-released mothers often have no source of livelihood and decide to leave their children behind at the prison. Reported by Petride Mudoola, 17 January 2011, at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/628368-161-children-in-prison-for-no-crime.html>

ZAMBIA

Poor prison conditions exposed: The Daily Mail reported that female prisoners at Lusaka Central Prison have complained

of deplorable living conditions. The prisoners reportedly managed to convey this complaint to a Parliamentary caucus through a representative, who reportedly stated that their living conditions were unsanitary, cramped and poorly ventilated. Reported by Steven Mvula, 2 December 2011, at <http://www.dailymail.co.zm/index.php/politics/1883-female-inmates-bemoan-poor-prison-conditions>

Overcrowding in remand detention facilities: UK Zambia's reported that the Zambia Prison Service has appealed to the High Court to speed up court cases in an effort to decongest remand detention centres throughout the country. Reported by UK Zambia's, 5 December 2011, a <http://ukzambians.co.uk/home/2011/12/05/zambiaprison-service-bemoans-congestion/>

Increase in prisoners on death row: The Times reported that there are 279 prisoners on death row at Mukobeko Maximum Security Prison. This is reportedly the highest number ever. The report noted that the reason for the increase is the fact that the previous President, Levy Mwanawasa, refused to sign any execution warrants as he did not believe that capital punishment should be a part of Zambian law. Reported by Davies Chanda, 27 December 2011, at http://www.times.co.zm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3780:279-inmates-on-death-row&catid=36:local-news&Itemid=27

Prisoners suffer eye infections: The Daily Mail reported that an eye infection had broken out in most prisons across the country and that Mukobeko Maximum Prison had the highest number of cases. The Ministry of Health was reported to have commenced an eye screening exercise in order to establish the major cause of the disease. Reported by Monica Kayombo, 4 January 2012, at <http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/index.php/politics/2623-prisoners-suffer-eye-infections>

New facility for prisoners opened: The Times reported that the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia opened a tuberculosis isolation clinic at a cost of K70 million at Lusaka Central Prison. It is hoped that the clinic will prevent the spreading of the airborne disease, which is rife in the correctional facility due to congestion. Reported by Davies Chanda, 21 January 2012, at http://www.times.co.zm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4376:cidrz-opens-k70m-tb-isolation-clinic&catid=36:local-ne

ZIMBABWE

Call to release prisoners: allAfrica.com reported that Amnesty International called on authorities in Zimbabwe to release three media activists connected to the Media Monitoring Project. The journalists were accused of "participating in a gathering with intent to promote violence, breaches of peace or bigotry." Reported by allafrica.com, 10 December 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201112100109.html>

Prison conditions investigated: News Day reported that the Parliamentary Thematic Committee on Human Rights had embarked on a countrywide tour of all prisons to investigate the living conditions of prisoners. The report noted that poor diet, inadequate uniforms, poor facilities and insufficient financial resources was at the centre of some of the problems facing the prison system. Reported by Veneranda Langa, 13 December 2011, at <http://www.newsday.co.zw/article/2011-12-13-parliament-investigates-prison-conditions/>

Measures to improve diet: Voice of America reported that government passed a "statutory instrument" which requires that prisoners be fed one-eighth of a loaf of bread, 100 grams maize meal porridge and fresh vegetables daily, as well as meat twice a week. Reported by Blessing Zulu, 4 January 2012, at <http://www.voanews.com/zimbabwe/news/Zimbabwe-Unity-Go>

State ordered to investigate torture: SW Radio reported that the state has been ordered by a court to urgently investigate the 'inhumane and degrading' conditions that eight activists are facing at Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison where they have been held for almost six months. Reported by Alex Bell, 23 January 2012, at <http://www.swradioafrica.com/2012/01/23/state-ordered-to-investigate-mdc-torture/>

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.cspri.org.za>

If this email was forwarded to you and you would like to receive these newsletters in the future, please click [here](#) to subscribe.