



30 Days Dae Izinsuku

Project of the
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Centre

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GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

Appointment of senior official investigated: The Sunday Times reported that the Department of Correctional Services launched an investigation into the appointment of the Deputy Commissioner of Employee Relations. Commissioner Thekiso reportedly failed to disclose the fact that he had previously been convicted of murder. Reported by The Sunday Times, 9 September 2012, at <http://times-e-editions.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/showarticle.aspx?article=39fb63e7-52ab-4bfc-ada2-a5dab7f02849&key=rBW13guK3LfoeHTTvVTm9A%3d%3d&issue=1107201209090000000000001001> (subscription needed)

Officials from the Department of Correction Services tour Brazil prisons: The New Age reported that officials from the Department of Correctional Services toured a number of prison facilities in Brazil in order to learn about foreign best practice in prison administration. Reported by Siyabonga Mkhwanazi, 27 September 2012, at http://www.thenewage.co.za/63675-1007-53-Prisons_officials_tour_Brazil_for_research

PRISON CONDITIONS

Poor education and rehabilitation facilities: Eye Witness News reported that education and rehabilitation facilities for young offenders in prison are inadequate. The report quotes Lukas Muntingh of the Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative saying "the inconsistency in the quality of service and retention conditions" were extremely troubling. Reported by Eye Witness News, 4 September 2012, at <http://ewn.co.za/2012/09/04/Inconsistent-rehabilitation-for-troubled-youth>

Construction of prison facilities delayed: Eye Witness News reported that officials from the Departments of Public Works and Correctional Services informed the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services that delays had intermittently stalled the construction of two prison facilities in the Western Cape. Those contracted to build the prison facilities are reportedly running behind schedule. Reported by Regan Thaw, 5 September 2012, at <http://www.ewn.co.za/2012/09/05/Correctional-Services-fails-to-refurbish-prisons>

State being sued for failing to protect child in remand detention: IOL reported that the state is being sued for damages arising from the rape of a 16-year-old boy. The boy was reportedly raped whilst awaiting trial at Westville Prison. It is alleged that the state failed to take adequate steps to protect the detainee from assault and rape. Reported by Tania Broughton, 13 September 2012, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/state-sued-for-teen-s-rape-in-jail-1.1382133#.UFGy2rJIT4U>

Book donations to prisons: allAfrica.com reported that more than one million rand's worth of books have been donated to prisons since the announcement by the Minister of Correctional Services of the commencement of the "Reading for Redemption" campaign. The campaign is reportedly part of a programme aimed at the creation of an environment that facilitates the rehabilitation of offenders. Reported by allAfrica.com, 18 September 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201209181313.html>

Mentally-ill detainee spends lengthy period of time in prison: IOL reported that a mentally ill prisoner, who was declared unfit to stand trial more than four years ago, has been detained in prison and has yet to be placed in an appropriate institution. Reported by Sarah Evans, 13 September 2012, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/mentally-ill-patient-was-lost-in-the-system-1.1382496#.UFL3X7JIT4U>

ESCAPES

Prison escapes declining: Times Live reported that the number of prisoners escaping from South African prisons has declined over the past decade. According to the Department of Correctional Services the highest number of prison escapes was 281 in 2002/3 and the least was 41 in 2011/12. The report noted that people remanded in custody accounted for 51 percent of those who had escaped in the past four years. Reported by Times Live, 6 September 2012, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2012/09/06/prison-escapes-declining-govt>

OTHER

Department of Correctional Services criticized: News24 reported that the Department of Correctional Services has been criticized by the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services for not having adopted a formal policy position on the installation of closed-circuit television in prison cells. The Department has reportedly been "stalling the issue" despite the Department having been urged to consider the matter by the Committee and certain civil society organisations. Reported by news24.com, 5 September 2012, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Prison-bosses-mulling-CCTV-MPs-told-20120905>

Parliament hears insights on the use of CCTV cameras in prisons: allAfrica.com reported that the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services met with stakeholders regarding the installation of closed-circuit television cameras in prisons. Officials from the Department of Correctional Services present at the hearing reportedly stated it would be necessary to carry out a feasibility study before the Department could commit to the purchase of CCTV equipment. Reported by allAfrica.com, 5 September 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201209050867.html>

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

CAMEROON

Death row prisoner takes care of fellow prisoners: Jade Cameroun reported that a prisoner on death row at Fouban Prison provides medical assistance to his fellow prisoners. He was reportedly one of the participants in a project by the German Development Agency that provided training, first aid and the early detection of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Original report in French. Reported by Anne Matho, Jade Cameroun, 4 September 2012, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=261>

Death row prisoner to sue state over poor conditions of detention: Jade Cameroun reported that a prisoner on death row intends to sue the state for the poor conditions of detention and inhuman treatment to which he is subjected. He is reportedly distressed about the lack of nutrition and medical care in the prison. Original report in French. Reported by Charles Nforgan, Jade Cameroun, 18 September 2012, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=264>

CHAD

Prison conditions desperate: Star Africa reported that a report recently released by Amnesty International details how the lives of prisoners in Chad are often put at risk by harsh conditions of detention, particularly severe overcrowding. The report also notes that in the past twelve months

there have been 21 deaths caused by asphyxiation and dehydration as well as shootings by prison officials. Reported by Star Africa, 4 September 2012, at <http://www.starafrika.com/en/news/detail-news/view/amnesty-international-report-launch-on-p-250995.html>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Unknown disease causes deaths in Bunia: Radio Okapi reported that an unknown disease was spreading in Bunia prison in the Oriental Province. In two weeks six prisoners reportedly died following symptoms of severe fever and coughing. The head of the prison's medical unit has pleaded for the transfer of critically ill prisoners to the city hospital for better quality medical care. Original report in French. Reported by Radio Okapi, 8 September 2012, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2012/09/08/bunia-6-detenus-de-la-prison-centrale-meurent-dune-maladie-inconnue/>

Kasapa Prison holds more than 1000 awaiting trial prisoners: Radio Okapi reported that Kasapa Prison in Lubumbashi currently holds more than 1000 awaiting trial prisoners and 200 sentenced prisoners. The Director of Public Prosecutions described the situation as abnormal. Original report in French. Reported by Radio Okapi, 12 September 2012, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2012/09/12/lubumbashi-la-prison-de-kasapa-compte-1000-personnes-en-detention-preventive/>

Court appearance affected by lack of transport: Radio Okapi reported that due to the breakdown of the only prisoner transport vehicle, awaiting trial prisoners at Makala Prison in Kinshasa have not been able to attend court hearings for the past two months. Lawyers representing the prisoners have been pleading for a quick solution. Prison authorities blame the state for not ensuring access to sufficient appropriate vehicles. Original report in French. Reported by Radio Okapi, 14 September 2012, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2012/09/14/prison-de-makala-des-detenus-privés-de-proces-dune-panne-de-vehicule/>

Released prisoners complain about detention conditions: Radio Okapi reported that two women and 19 men were released conditionally from prison in Beni. During the ceremony marking their release the prisoners denounced the conditions of their detention in front of officials of the penitentiary unit of MONUSCO. They further complained that some prisoners were held much longer than the period of their sentence and that others waited for months before appearing before a court. Original report in French. Reported by Radio Okapi, 15 September 2012, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2012/09/15/beni-liberes-21-prisonniers-de-la-prison-centrale-de-kangwayi-decrient-leur-mauvaises-conditions-de-detention/>

Prison director pleads for assistance: Radio Okapi reported that the Director of Mulunge Prison in Uvira called a press conference for the purpose of requesting humanitarian assistance for prisoners. The food received from the prison authorities reportedly fails to ensure even one meal per day, let alone the three meals to which prisoners are entitled by law. Original report in French. Reported by Radio Okapi, 19 September 2012, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2012/09/19/sud-kivu-les-prisonniers-duvira-mangent-une-seule-fois-par-jour/>

EGYPT

Prisoners on hunger strike: Ahram Online reported that twenty foreign nationals imprisoned at Cairo's Qanater Prison have gone on hunger strike in the hope of raising awareness of the extremely long sentences that they are currently serving. Most of the strikers were reportedly sentenced after having been convicted of drug-related offences, crimes which carry extremely harsh penalties. Reported by Salma Shukrallah, 19 September 2012, at <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/53238/Egypt/Politics-/Foreign-prison-inmates-declare-hunger-strike,-plea.aspx>

ETHIOPIA

Amnesty granted: The Sudan Tribune reported that on 10 September 2012 President Woldegiorgisse granted amnesty to more than 1950 prisoners, including two Swedish journalists imprisoned for charges relating to terrorism. Reported by Tesfa-Alem Tekle, 12 September 2012, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article43849>

Ethiopian Human Rights Commission to monitor prisons: The Sudan Tribune reported that the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission launched a programme to monitor correctional facilities. The monitoring project reportedly fulfills, in part, its objectives to promote, protect and enforce the human and democratic rights of citizens. Reported by Tesfa-Alem Tekle, 17 September 2012, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article43921>

GAMBIA

Death penalty described as a deterrent: News24 reported that Police Chief Yankuba Sonko told the media that the execution of nine death row prisoners last month would "make people think twice about committing crimes." The report notes, however, that official crime statistics are not released by the government. Reported by news24.com, 5 September 2012, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Gambia-Executions-will-prevent-crime-20120905>

Moratorium imposed on executions: IOL reported that on 14 September 2012, President Jammeh announced that he would be imposing a moratorium on executions. The announcement was reportedly made after he came under intense criticism for the execution by firing squad of nine death row prisoners. Reported by IOL, 17 September 2012, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/jammeh-urged-to-commute-death-sentences-1.1384402#.UFcju9mDzcs>

KENYA

Prisons "open day" commended: The Star reported that prisoners in Kenya have commended the Prisoners Open Day that was established seven years ago and is held every year in April, August and December. According to prison officials, the occasion enables prisoners to meet with their families and prepare them for reintegration into their communities. Reported by Monicah Mwangi, 7 September 2012, at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/lifestyle/128-lifestyle/93326-prisons-open-day-a-blessing-to-families>

MOROCCO

Calls to end torture: The Chicago Tribune reported that on 21 September 2012 the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture, Juan Mendez, urged the authorities in Morocco to end the torture of prisoners in its prisons and police detention centres. Reported by Souhail Karam, 22 September 2012, at http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-09-22/business/sns-rt-un-moroccotorture-pixl5e8km42p-20120922_1_torture-souhail-karam-rabat

Morocco advised to ratify OPCAT: Gulf News reported that Juan Mendez, the United Nations special rapporteur against torture has called on authorities in Morocco to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture that aims to prevent mistreatment of people in detention by establishing independent oversight of detention facilities by the Sub-Committee on Torture. Reported by Gulf News, 22 September 2012, at <http://gulfnews.com/news/region/morocco/morocco-urged-to-end-police-torture-1.1080050>

MOZAMBIQUE

Police told to remove prisoners from cells: allAfrica.com reported that Attorney-General Augusto Paulino informed the police that they could no longer keep prisoners serving sentences in the cells of the Maputo City Police Command and must transfer them to prisons. Of the 88 prisoners incarcerated at the police command cells, 44 are classified as dangerous prisoners, 25 are awaiting trial and 19 are serving lengthy prison sentences. Reported by allAfrica.com, 20 September 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201209210672.html>

Deadline to review cases given: allAfrica.com reported that on 21 September 2012 the Attorney-General gave all the prosecutors in Maputo a deadline of 15 days to review in detail all the cases involving the 864 prisoners currently incarcerated in the Maputo Top Security Prison. Of the 864 prisoners, 424 are said to be awaiting trial and in many cases the legal period for preventive detention has reportedly expired. Reported by allAfrica.com, 22 September 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201209220219.html>

NIGERIA

Many inmates awaiting trial: Punch reported that 36 000 of the 50 000 inmates in Nigerian prisons are remand detainees. Zakari Ibrahim, the Controller-General of the Nigerian Prisons Service disclosed these figures at a workshop entitled "The Human Rights Integration Project", which was established by the Rehabilitation and Welfare Action for prison officials. Reported by punch, 5 September 2012, at <http://www.punchng.com/news/36000-of-50000-inmates-awaiting-trial-prisons-boss/>

Directors of public prosecutions blamed for high number of remand detainees: The Guardian reported that the Senate has blamed directors of public prosecution for the increase in the number of prisoners awaiting trial across prisons in Nigeria. The Senate Chairman on Interior appealed to directors of public prosecutions to expedite the delivery of justice by ensuring that the prisoners are promptly brought to court. Reported by Alemma-Ozioruva, 5 September 2012, at http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=97795:senate-blames-dpps-for-cases-of-awaiting-trial-inmates-&catid=1:national&Itemid=559

Calls to increase security: Leadership Nigeria reported that the Chairman of the Senate Committee of the Interior appealed for funding to improve security in prison facilities. The call comes in the wake of the bombing of certain prison facilities by Boko Haram. Reported by Patrick Ochoga, 8 September 2012, at http://leadership.ng/nga/articles/34422/2012/09/08/we_are_working_expedite_trial_processes_sen_abubakar.html/?utm_source=OpenNetworksCRM&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=OpenNetworksCRM

Prisoners released: The Tribune reported that the Chief Judge of Lagos State released 233 prisoners during her visit to the Kirikiri Maximum and Medium Prisons on 18 September 2012. Some of those released were awaiting trial and others had reportedly spent up to twelve years in prison. Reported by Yejide Gbenga-Ogundare, 19 September 2012, at http://tribune.com.ng/index.php/news/47835-lagos-cj-frees-233-prisoners/?utm_source=OpenNetworksCRM&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=OpenNetworksCRM

Eighty percent of prisoners in Lagos state are awaiting trial: Business Day reported that an investigation into prisons by the News Agency of Nigeria has revealed that 80 percent of prisoners in Lagos state are awaiting trial. The five prisons in Lagos accommodate 5707 prisoners and have exceeded their total capacity by 52 percent. Reported by Business Day, 19 September 2012, at http://www.businessdayonline.com/NG/index.php/news/latest/44679--80-of-prison-inmates-in-lagos-are-awaiting-trial--investigation-/?utm_source=OpenNetworksCRM&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=OpenNetworksCRM

SENEGAL

Call to halt executions: Times Live reported that the Senegalese President had joined international appeals to the Gambian government to halt a series of planned executions of death-row prisoners. According to the report, two Senegalese nationals were executed. Reported by Times Live, 29 August 2012, at http://www.timeslive.co.za/thetimes/2012/08/29/senegal-calls-for-halt-to-executions/?utm_source=OpenNetworksCRM&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=OpenNetworksCRM

SUDAN

Prisoners executed: Wire Update reported that two prisoners were hanged at the Central Prison in Juba. According to Rupert Colville, a spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the prisoners were not granted proper legal assistance. Reported by Wire Update, 1 September 2012, at http://wireupdate.com/un-south-sudan-hangs-two-inmates-at-prison-in-juba.html/?utm_source=OpenNetworksCRM&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=OpenNetworksCRM

Sudanese government under pressure to abolish death penalty: allAfrica.com reported that South Sudan is under pressure from the Christian community to abolish the death penalty. The report noted that the country will mostly likely come under even more pressure during October

2012 when United Nations member states cast their votes on whether or not to endorse a moratorium on the death penalty. Reported by allAfrica.com, 3 September 2012, at http://allafrica.com/stories/201209030021.html/?utm_source=OpenNetworksCRM&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=OpenNetworksCRM

TOGO

Prison overcrowding and poor conditions of detention: IRIN News reported that Togo's twelve prisons, most of which are dilapidated, are accommodating more than double the amount of prisoners for which they were designed. Overcrowding, as well as poor nutrition and hygiene and a lack of medical care have reportedly led to disease and death. The report states that lengthy court cases, arbitrary arrests and the detention of petty offenders are the cause of prison congestion. Reported by IRIN News, 5 September 2012, at <http://www.irinnews.org/printreport.aspx?reportid=96248>

UGANDA

Prisoner transfer agreement implemented: UK Zambians reported that Zambia and Malawi have started implementing the resolution of a memorandum of understanding regarding the exchange of prisoners between the two countries in order that they may serve the remainder of their sentences in their country of origin. Reported by UK Zambians, 24 September 2012, at http://www.ukzambians.co.uk/home/2012/09/24/zambia-malawi-exchange-prison//?utm_source=OpenNetworksCRM&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=OpenNetworksCRM

ZIMBABWE

State sued for failing to provide adequate health care: Times Live reported that Douglas Muzanenhamo, an AIDS awareness campaigner and his lawyers have taken a groundbreaking test case to Zimbabwe's highest court to force police and prison authorities to ensure HIV/AIDS patients get their life-prolonging medication while in prison. Reported by Times Live, 8 September 2012, at http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2012/09/08/zimbabwe-aids-activist-sues-prison-over-denying-inmate-arvs/?utm_source=OpenNetworksCRM&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=OpenNetworksCRM

Rehabilitation through sport: The Zimbabwean reported that the recently introduced inmates' soccer tournament by the Zimbabwe Prison Service has been commended as a way of rehabilitating the prisoners. The tournament involves teams from various local prisons. Reported by The Zimbabwean, 12 September 2012, at http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/news/zimbabwe/60737/rehab-through-sport.html?utm_source=thezim&utm_medium=homepage&utm_campaign=listarticle&utm_content=textlink

Water crisis in prison: The Sunday Mail reported that more than 1 700 inmates at Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison are at risk of contracting waterborne diseases as the prison has been without running water for almost a year. Prisoners are reportedly compelled to use buckets to flush toilets. Reported by Charlotte Musarurwa, 22 September 2012, at http://www.sundaymail.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=31359:chikurubi-prison-inmates-in-water-crisis&catid=37:top-stories&Itemid=130



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