

## **In this Issue:**

**GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION**  
**UNSENTENCED PRISONERS**  
**PRISON CONDITIONS**  
**SOUTH AFRICANS IMPRISONED ABROAD**  
**PAROLE AND SENTENCING**  
**OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

[Top of the page](#)

## **GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION**

**Minister of Justice questions "renditions"**: Times Live reported that the Minister of Justice has been demanding answers from the police regarding illegal "renditions" of people to Zimbabwe. Many of those illegally handed over to Zimbabwe police are alleged to have been tortured or killed. Reported by Times Live, 6 November 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2011/11/06/angry-sa-justice-minister-demands-answers-on-death-handovers-to-zim>

**Department questioned over R500 million bill**: The Department of Correctional Services came "under fire" in Parliament for spending more than R500 million on consultants, contractors and outsourced services during the 2010/2011 financial year. One particular example includes R8.4 million paid to a consortium of KPMG and SAB&T "to assist with all internal audit-related tasks", despite the department having its own, in-house auditing function. Reported by Deon de Lange, 8 November 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/jail-top-brass-grilled-on-r500m-bill-1.1189169>

**Department of Correctional Services continues to encounter IT problems**: Sowetan Live reported that the Department of Correctional Services had told Parliament that it had spent R64 million in the last financial year on information technology consultants. In spite of this, however, the Department reportedly continues to experience grave IT problems. Reported by Thabo Mokone, 30 November 2011, at <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2011/11/30/consultants-paradise>

---

[Top of the page](#)

## **UNSENTENCED PRISONERS**

**Krugersdorp remand detainees die as a result of prison fire**: news24.com reported that two remand detainees died in Krugersdorp Prison and a third was recovering in hospital after they reportedly set fire to their cell. The three were reportedly awaiting trial on charges of house breaking, assault, rape and murder. Reported by news24.com, 3 November 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Krugersdorp-prisoner-dies-after-fire-20111103>

---

[Top of the page](#)

## **PRISON CONDITIONS**

**Allegations of human rights abuses in remand detention facility**: Politics Web reported that there is much "cause for

concern" regarding what appear to be large-scale human rights abuses at the Grootvlei Prison, the result of which was the recent strike of over 1000 remand detainees. The nature of the abuses suffered by the remand detainees are reportedly torture, assault, bribery and corruption, unhygienic living conditions and the denial of visitation rights. Reported by Politics Web, 4 November 2011, at [http://www.politicsweb.co.za/politicsweb/view/politicsweb/en/page72308?oid=265156&sn=Marketingweb\\_detail&pid=90389](http://www.politicsweb.co.za/politicsweb/view/politicsweb/en/page72308?oid=265156&sn=Marketingweb_detail&pid=90389)

**Prisoners taught skills:** Times Live reported that Leeuwkop Prison in Kyalami, Johannesburg, has been training prisoners in the running of various "horticultural projects." Reported by Vishanthi Arumugam, 22 November 2011 at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/scitech/2011/11/22/turning-new-leaves>

**Torture in prisons:** Reuters reported that civil society representatives had made submissions before the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services on 30 November 2011 regarding torture in prisons. Stakeholders highlighted the need for independent oversight mechanisms and the importance of criminalizing torture, as required by the United Nations Convention against Torture. Reported by Wendell Roelf, 30 November 2011, at <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E7AT06C20111130?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0&sp=true>

---

[Top of the page](#)

## SOUTH AFRICANS IMPRISONED ABROAD

**Death row prisoner appeals:** The Times reported that Richard Mabaso, a South African national, requested the Swaziland Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to help ensure that he was not executed. Mabaso was sentenced to death in 2002 having been convicted of murdering several people and is currently on death row. Reported by the Times, 23 November 2011, at <http://www.times.co.sz/News/35009.html>

---

[Top of the page](#)

## PAROLE AND SENTENCING

**Concern over the regulation of parole:** Die Beeld reported that "serious questions" have been raised about the functioning of the Department of Correctional Services after a parolee, Jaco Steyn, attacked six people during the hours he was supposed to be performing community service. Reported by Die Beeld, 14 November 2011, at <http://www.beeld.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/DKD-los-hek-oop-20111114>

**Public Protector to look into Derby-Lewis's medical treatment:** The Daily Maverick reported that Public Protector, Thuli Madonsela, was to "hold talks" with the Minister of Correctional Services in connection with Clive Derby-Lewis' latest application for parole. Clive Derby-Lewis is reportedly undergoing medical treatment for cancer. Reported by Theresa Mallinson, 14 November 2011, at <http://dailymaverick.co.za/article/2011-11-14-madonsela-to-look-into-derby-lewiss-medical-treatment>

---

[Top of the page](#)

## OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

### ANGOLA

**Government pledge to improve prisons:** allAfrica.com reported that the Angolan government has stated that it was committed to improving the situation of prisoners and their social rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. The statement was made in Luanda by the Deputy Minister of Interior. Reported by allAfrica.com, 2 November 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111020586.html>

### BURUNDI

**Provisional release of 216 prisoners:** Afriqinfos reported that 216 prisoners at the Ngozi prison had been released. Determinations of whether to release prisoners were reportedly made on the basis of each prisoner's health and the gravity of the offence for each which prisoner had been convicted. This release is part of wider governmental efforts to reduce overcrowding in Burundian prisons. Reported by Afriqinfos, 25 November 2011, at <http://www.afriqinfos.com/articles/2011/11/25/afrique-centrale-191519.asp> (Original report in French)

### CAMEROON

**No toilets in Douala police cells:** Jade Cameroun reported that most police cells in Douala do not have any toilets, rendering the cells a source of disease. The report reminded readers that such circumstances are violations of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (UNSMR). Reported by Christian Locka, Jade Cameroun, 2 November 2011, at <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=211> (Original report in French)

**Prison guards involved in smuggling:** Jade Cameroun reported that prison personnel, particularly guards, are bringing illicit goods into prisons in order to make extra money. A source in the prison system reportedly stated that at least 80% of prison guards in Douala co-operate with prisoners and their visitors in the sale of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and other goods. Reported by Théodore Tchopa, Jade Cameroun, 23 November 2011, at <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=213> (Original report in French)

**Police bribery:** Jade Cameroun reported that police officers often arrest people (on Fridays) and detain them in police custody as a means of ensuring bribes. The report discusses a number of individual cases of persons who said they were arrested for no reason at all and then asked for money in exchange for their release. Reported by Christian Locka, Jade Cameroun, 23 November 2011, at <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=214> (Original report in French)

**Rights education for incarcerated women:** Jade Cameroun reported that civil society provided extra assistance to women in Douala prison around the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (VAW), 25 November 2011. Among other activities, NGOs reportedly educated incarcerated women on their rights and provided legal assistance. The report reminded readers of the UN Human Rights Committee's 2009 recommendation to the Government of Cameroon to take all necessary measures to fight VAW. Reported by Déjio Makué and Anne Matho, Jade Cameroun, 25 November 2011, at <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=215> (Original report in French)

## COTE

## D'IVOIRE

**Journalists detained:** Starafrika.com reported that three journalists employed by an "opposition newspaper," were detained without formal charge. The detainees were reportedly held in a police station cell beyond the 48 hour detention limit. Reported by starafrika.com, 29 November 2011, at <http://www.starafrika.com/en/news/detail-news/view/three-opposition-journalists-detained-in-205555.html>

## ETHIOPIA

**More prisons to be built:** The Addis Fortune reported that the Federal Prison Administration is planning to construct four additional prisons at the cost of 192 million Br. The prisons currently in operation are reportedly in a very poor state, thereby necessitating the addition of modern prisons. Reported by addisfortune.com, 11 November 2011, at <http://addisfortune.com/Administration%20to%20Contract%20Four%20Prisons%20at%20a%20Cost%20of%20192m%20Br.htm>

**Appeal to stop arrests:** Star Africa reported that Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have appealed to the Ethiopian government to cease using its broad anti-terrorism laws to arrest and detain journalists and peaceful political activists. Reported by starafrika.com, 21 November 2011, at <http://www.starafrika.com/en/news/detail-news/view/ethiopia-stop-using-anti-terror-law-to-203832.html>

## GHANA

**Ghana increases spending on prison food:** Ghana Business News reported that the government had increased spending on food for prisoners from GH0.60 to GH1.80 per day. The announcement was made in Parliament by the Minister of the Interior, who reportedly said that "the increase was a modest beginning to improve on nutrition of the prison inmates." Reported by ghanabusinessnews.com, 3 November 2011, at <http://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2011/11/03/2012-budget-ghana-increases-feeding-fees-for-prison-inmates/>

**New custodial institution complete:** The Ghana Government Portal reported that the first phase of the Ankaful Maximum Security Prison was complete and ready for commissioning. Reported Gilbert Ankrah, 3 November 2011, at [http://www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=8744:new-custodial-institution-to-be-commissioned&catid=28:general-news&Itemid=162](http://www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8744:new-custodial-institution-to-be-commissioned&catid=28:general-news&Itemid=162)

**Detainees will vote in 2012:** Afrique en Ligne reported that pursuant to a direction of the Ghanaian Supreme Court, prisoners will be entitled to exercise their right to vote while in detention. The President, John Evans Atta Mills, assured that public that the government would implement this decision and would provide the necessary resources to the Electoral Commission to ensure that prisoners could vote during the presidential and parliamentary elections in December 2012. Reported by Afrique en Ligne, 11 November 2011, at [http://www.africatime.com/afrique/nouvelle.asp?no\\_nouvelle=63446](http://www.africatime.com/afrique/nouvelle.asp?no_nouvelle=63446) (Original report in French)

## GUINEA

**Appeals to investigate detention:** Human Rights Watch has appealed to the Guinean government to investigate the role of two high-level officials in the detention and intimidation of members of a prominent Guinean human rights group. The detainees were reportedly subjected to hours of interrogation and threatened with death. Reported by Corinne Dufka, 11 November 2011, at <http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/11/11/guinea-investigate-detention-intimidation-activists>

## KENYA

**Taking exams inside prison:** allAfrica.com reported that 39 inmates at Naivasha GK prison were preparing for exams in the hope that this would help prepare them for their reintegration into society. The reported lamented, however, the shortage of teachers, reading materials and other basic resources. Reported by George Murage, 9 November 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111100030.html>

**Female prisoners not permitted to see children:** Women News Network reported that women prisoners at Lang'ata Women's Prison are not permitted access to their children after they commence serving their prison terms. Activists were reportedly taking legal action to force the government to improve the circumstances of women prisoners. Reported by Gitonga Njeru, 22 November 2011, at <http://womennewsnetwork.net/2011/11/22/kenya-prison-policies-mothers-children/>

## LIBERIA

**Congested remand detention centres:** allAfrica.com reported that a Judge of Criminal Court 'A' at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia, James Zotaa, said that prisons in Liberia are congested due to the negligence of many complainants in pursuing their respective cases once those they have accused are in remand detention. Reported by Winston W. Parley, 15 November 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111150772.html>

## LIBYA

**Attempts to repair image of prison facility:** The Daily Star reported that prison officials at Libya's Ain Zara prison are attempting to "shake off the prison's bad reputation" as a torture centre during the Gadhafi regime. Reported by Imed Lamoum, 18 November 2011, at <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2011/Nov-18/154490-libyas-ain-zara-prison-breaks-with-dark-past.ashx#axzz1e42PTLLk>

**Detained Gaddafi supporters demand freedom:** Times Live reported that inmates accused of having supported the ousted Gadhafi regime are demanding their freedom as they are reportedly being held in detention centres without charge. Reported by Times Live, 21 November 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2011/11/21/jailed-gaddafi-supporters-demand-freedom>

**Private citizen's detention centre:** The Independent reported that a Libyan pilot had set up his own detention centre in a former school in the town of Zintan where more than 100 prisoners from the Gaddafi regime were reportedly held. The detention centre was handed over to rebel leaders at the time of Gadhafi's ousting. Reported by the Portia Walker, 22 November 2011, at <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/libya-eyewitness-who-gave-me-permission-to-run-a-prison-i-dont-need-it-6267105.html>

**Evidence of the torture of detainees:** The Australian reported that Libyan doctor Osama Mussa confirmed that health facilities in Libya are treating prisoners who were tortured by the rebels during the campaign against Moammar Gadhafi. One prisoner was quoted saying, "They burnt people with cigarettes, beat their feet, hung men by their arms". Reported by Tom Coghlan, 26 November 2011, at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/libyan-prisoners-tortured-by-rebels/story-e6frq6so-1226206469194>

**Detention without trial:** The BBC reported that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told the Security Council that as many as 7000 detainees are being held without access to legal process because the police and courts are not functioning. Many of these detainees have reportedly been tortured. Reported by Barbara Plett, 29 November 2011, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-15932105>

## MOROCCO

**Prisoners on hunger strike:** allAfrica.com reported that 24 Saharawi human rights defenders and "prisoners of conscience" who are yet to appear before the Morocco court-martial have gone on hunger strike. The prisoners are striking in protest against the fact that they have been detained for over a year. Reported by Malainin Lakhal, 18 November 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111180988.html>

## NIGERIA

**Expenditure on prisons revealed:** This Day Live reported that the Controller-General of the Nigerian Prisons Service, Biodun

Ogundipe, told the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Human Rights that N3.53 billion is spent annually on the feeding of prison inmates across the country. He reportedly added that most of the prisons in the urban centres were overstretched, while those in the rural areas were receiving inmates far below their capacities. Reported by Kunle Akogun, 1 November 2011, at <http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/nigerian-prisoners-live-on-n200-per-inmate-daily/101778/>

**Nigerians on death row:** Sun News reported that a non-governmental organization, Legal Defence and Assistance Project, disclosed that 924 Nigerians have been sentenced to death and are awaiting execution in Nigeria. Reported by sunnewsonline.com, 11 November 2011, at <http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2011/nov/11/national-11-11-2011-015.html>

## RWANDA

**Allegations of torture and ill-treatment in Rwandan prisons:** Jambonews reported that the 8 Sierra-Leoneans sentenced by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and serving their sentence in a special prison in Rwanda complained that they were suffering torture and ill-treatment, including beatings, a lack of access to food and medical services, death threats and forced labour. Following these allegations, the Special Court visited the prison and the Rwandan authorities, who denied the allegations. Reported by Jean Mitari, 9 November 2011, at <http://www.jambonews.net/actualites/20111109-rwanda-les-autorites-carcerales-accusees-de-torture-et-mauvais-traitements/> (Original report in French.)

**Sustainable solutions found:** IOL reported that the kitchen in Nsinda prison now runs on free, renewable resources: the waste from nearly 8 000 inmates and manure from cows. The stoves were once powered by costly, environmentally damaging firewood. Reported by Graham Holliday, 21 November 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/prison-waste-cuts-costs-in-rwanda-1.1182735>

**Prison officials begin tour:** A delegation of nine senior officials from the Uganda Prisons Service visited Rwanda on a week-long study tour in order to study "best prison management practices." Reported by allafrica.com, 29 November 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111290305.html>

**Inmates released on parole:** allafrica.com reported that 1667 of 3000 inmates who had applied for parole were released, having met the minimum requirements for parole. Reported by allafrica.com, 30 November 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201111300807.html>

## SIERRA

## LEONE

**Prison in a poor state:** The Ekklesia reported that conditions at Pademba Road Prison in Freetown were extremely poor. A prisoner was quoted saying, "We are packed inside prison walls like sardines in a plastic carton". The prisoner reportedly made these remarks at a World Council of Churches conference in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Reported by Mathews George Chunakara, 14 November 2011, at <http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/15715>

**Minister visits prisoners:** Africa Review reported that Sierra Leone's Deputy Minister of Justice visited eight nationals from Sierra Leone who have reportedly been imprisoned in Rwanda since November 2009. The eight Sierra Leone nationals were sentenced by the Special Tribunal on Sierra Leone for war crimes and transferred to Rwanda where they are serving their prison terms. Reported by africareview.com, 14 November 2011, at [http://www.africareview.com/News/Sierra\\_Leonean\\_justice\\_minister\\_visits\\_war\\_prisoners\\_in\\_Rwanda/-/979180/1272848/-/bn17em/-/](http://www.africareview.com/News/Sierra_Leonean_justice_minister_visits_war_prisoners_in_Rwanda/-/979180/1272848/-/bn17em/-/)

## SUDAN

**Use of death penalty condemned:** The Sudan Tribune reported that the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies has condemned the use of the death penalty in the case in which seven individuals, including minors, are accused of carjacking. The report also said that the Centre had appealed to the Ministry of Justice to review the case. Reported by sudantribute.com, 29 November 2011, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/The-African-Centre-condemns-the,40857>

## SOUTH

## SUDAN

**Journalists arrested and detained:** The Daily Maverick reported that two journalists were arrested and detained without charge for writing and publishing an opinion piece criticising the fact that President Salva Kiir's daughter had married an Ethiopian national. Reported by Theresa Mallinson, 9 November 2011, at <http://dailymaverick.co.za/article/2011-11-09-south-sudanese-journalists-arrested-newspaper-suspended>

## SWAZILAND

**Correctional Bill to be tabled in parliament:** The Times reported that the Department of Correctional Services is currently crafting a Correctional Services Bill that will repeal the Prison Act No.40 of 1964. Isaiah Ntshangase, the Commissioner of the

Correctional Services, disclosed this during a gala dinner he hosted for the visiting members of the Zimbabwean prison and public police. Reported by Senzo Dlamini, 16 November 2011, at <http://www.times.co.sz/News/34641.html>

## UGANDA

**Adverse report released:** The Monitor reported that Amnesty International had released a report in which the organization reportedly states that it is "strange that in a country that commits to rule of law, opposition politicians and activists face arbitrary arrest, threats and politically-motivated criminal charges for expressing views deemed critical of the authorities." 1 November 2011, at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1264908/-/bhf8voz/-/>

**Discrimination against HIV/AIDS prisoners:** New Vision reported that prisoners suffering from HIV/AIDS are at risk of living a shorter life behind bars due to discrimination and hard labour. The report added that some prisoners who take anti-retroviral drugs lament that they are exposed to heavy work which weakens them. Reported by New Vision, 2 November 2011, at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/18851-discrimination-of-hiv-aids-prisoners-high.html>

**Appeal made to curb torture:** Key Correspondents carried a story in which it said that the government should do more to ensure that suspected perpetrators of torture in the police and prison services are brought to justice, and that victims are granted access to justice and legal remedies. Reported by Key Correspondents, 22 November 2011, at <http://www.keycorrespondents.org/2011/11/22/torture-%E2%80%98still-haunting-security-agencies-in-uganda/>

## ZIMBABWE

**Prisoners remain on death row:** News Day reported that more than 50 prisoners continue to languish inside Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison as Zimbabwe has failed to recruit and hire a hangman to carry out the executions. The report also added that 65 people have been hanged since independence in 1980. Reported by News Day, 1 November 2011, at <http://www.newsday.co.zw/article/2011-10-31-reconsider-capital-punishment>

**Prospects for release of activists enhanced:** The Zimbabwean reported that "prospects are now bright" in relation to the release of six political activists arrested in February after having been found watching videos of the Arab spring uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia. The six were initially charged with treason and plotting to overthrow Robert Mugabe but that was then changed to 'conspiracy to commit public violence'. Reported by Tichaona Sibanda, 9 November 2011, at <http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/news/zimbabwe/54463/qwisai-case-near-collapse-after.html>

**Activists detained for six months:** SW Radio reported that a group of six MDC-T activists, accused of murdering a police officer, have been in police detention for six months now, despite documented evidence that many were not even at the scene when the police officer they are accused of killing died. Reported by Tererai Karimakwenda, 21 November 2011, at <http://www.swradioafrica.com/2011/11/21/glen-view-mdc-t-activists-detained-for-6-months/>

---

Fair use notice

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



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

Tel: ( 27) 021-9592950

<http://www.communitylawcentre.org.za/clc-projects/civil-society-prison-reform-initiative/>