



30 Days Dae Izinsuku

Project of the Community
Law Centre

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In this Issue:

GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

PRISON CONDITIONS

UNSENTENCED PRISONERS

PAROLE AND SENTENCING

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Dear Jill GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

[Top of Page](#)

New prison to be built: The Sowetan reported that the Hibiscus Coast Municipality had struck a deal with the Department of Correctional Services regarding the locality of a prison to be built in Port Shepstone. The new facility is expected to generate new employment and bring in new housing units for warders. Reported by Nivashni Nair, 1 July 2011, at <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2011/07/01/new-jail-to-be-built-in-hibiscus>

Former warder wins court case: The Daily Dispatch reported that a former prison warder at the Patensie Correctional Centre had won a legal battle against the Department of Correctional Services in which he had sought official documentation revealing large-scale deception and the concealment of facts. Reported by Daily Dispatch, 15 July 2011, at

http://dispatch.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/showarticle.aspx?article=ea89ed56_a988_4f6f_89fa_86b4096026bf&key=W4%2fc1zeiZajsDxlzeon8wg%3d%3d&issue=8148201107140000000001001
(subscription needed)

Parliamentary Committee visits prison: The New Age reported that Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts visited Mangaung maximum security private prison in Bloemfontein in an effort to monitor contractual compliance and management. The report added that the visits are pursuant to the Auditor General's qualified opinions over public-private prison partnerships. Reported by Getrude Makhafola, 28 July 2011, at http://www.thenewage.co.za/24158-1018-53-Scopa_visit_Bloem_jail

PRISON CONDITIONS

[Top of Page](#)

Electronic tagging to alleviate overcrowding: Die Volksblad reported that the Department of Correctional Services plans to pilot test electronic tagging for the purposes of monitoring parolees and suspects released on bail. Reported by Jana van der Merwe, Die Volksblad, 17 July 2011, Original in Afrikaans. <http://www.volksblad.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Enkelbande-dalk-plan-teen-oorvol-tronke-20110717>

Prison refurbished: The New Age reported that Freddy Mabasa, a local service station owner, donated R60000 to renovate the mother and child section at Durban's Westville Prison as part of the 67 minutes of selfless contributions for Mandela Day. Reported by Chris Makhaye, 19 July 2011, at http://www.thenewage.co.za/23336-1010-53-Gift_for_prison_mums_and_their_babies

Allegations of torture: News24 reported that the Department of Correctional Services and the police are investigating allegations of torture at Pretoria Central Prison. The report states that six warders had been accused of shocking a prisoner with an electrified riot shield. Reported by News24, 19 July 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Probe-into-prison-torture-claims-20110719>

Government urged to expedite Combating of Torture Bill: News24 reported that in response to allegations of torture at Pretoria Central Prison, the South African Human Rights Commission had urged the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to expedite the Combating of Torture Bill in order to comply with its international obligations under the Convention against Torture. Reported by News24, 20 July 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Govt-urged-to-fast-track-torture-bill-20110720>

Mentally ill remand detainees could be evaluated in prisons: The Star reported that a consulting psychiatrist had said that it would be possible for the preliminary evaluations of prisoners suspected to be mentally ill to be carried out inside prisons and thereafter a decision made as to whether they can apply for bail. The arrangement could go a long way in reducing the prison population. Reported by the Star, 26 July 2011, at http://thestar.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/showarticle.aspx?article=fc6b8f06_2c10_4d7d_ad62_86320f45614b&key=E6qksIPDBX%2fN%2fufwpK5n2A%3d%3d&issue=6988201107230000000001001 (subscription needed)

HIV services at prisons: Plus News reported that HIV treatment services have been extended to prisons in South Africa. 9% of South African prisons now reportedly offer antiretroviral drugs to HIV positive prisoners. The story quotes the Department of Correctional Services as saying that Leeuwkop prison was the latest prison to launch its own antiretroviral clinic. Reported by Plus News, 27 July 2011, at <http://www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=93336>

Overcrowding in Matatshe prison: Buanews reported that Matatshe Maximum Prison in Limpopo province is severely overcrowded. The report stated that some inmates given parole are still in prison as their families are not prepared to receive them back into the community. Reported by Eric Mashaba, 28 July 2011, at <http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/11/11072809051002>

UNSENTENCED PRISONERS

[Top of Page](#)

Court orders release of suspects: The Citizen reported that three men arrested in connection with a spate of housebreakings and robberies in Johannesburg were released because police had failed to bring the three to court within 48 hours. The court reiterated that 48 hours is the maximum period suspects can be held in detention before they appear in court. Reported by The Citizen, 4 July 2011, at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=207246&sn=Detail&pid=334&Court-orders-Rolax-gang-accused-freed>

Boeremag remand detainees to remain in chains: News24 reported that police had advised that the detainees accused in the Boeremag treason trial should remain in chains because they are planning another escape. The remand detainees, who are confined to their cells 22 hours a day, had applied to the court to have their leg irons removed. The Boeremag accused are said to have used a spray composed of pepper, ammonia and thinners in their previous attempt to escape from prison. Reported by News24, 14 July 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Police-Boeremag-plotting-jail-break-20110714>

Thousands of remand detainees to be moved: The New Age reported that the Department of Correctional Services had moved thousands of awaiting trial detainees into their own facilities, separating them from convicted prisoners, as part of a plan to reduce overcrowding in prisons across the country. The changes were said to be in line with the requirements of the Correctional Matters Amendment Act. Reported by Siyabonga Mkhwanazi, 15 July 2011, at http://www.thenewage.co.za/23135-1007-53-Thousands_of_awaiting_trial_prisoners_moved_to_own_zone

Delays in trials criticized: The Beeld reported that the Centre for Child Law was appalled by delays in the trial of a man, Francois Steynberg, who tried to kill a girl by cutting her throat. The trial has reportedly been delayed over a period of three years, leading to calls for the magistrate handling the case to observe his obligation under the Constitution to intervene in this case and "see to it that it is dealt with swiftly". Reported by The Beeld, 25 July 2011, at http://www.beeld.com/Suid_Afrika/Nuus/Kind_se_keel_met_sker_gesny_Saak_sloer_3_j_20110722

Saturday courts given thumbs up: Times Live reported that Legal Aid South Africa had commended authorities for establishing Saturday courts in the North West province in an effort to combat lengthy delays in trials. Reported by Times Live, 28 July 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2011/07/28/saturday-courts-please-legal-aid-sa>

PAROLE AND SENTENCING

[Top of Page](#)

Review panel for medical parole applications: Beeld reported that there is a possibility that medical parole applications will be subjected to review by an independent panel from 1 September 2011, an initiative stemming from the recently enacted Correctional Matters Amendment Act. Reported by The Beeld, 25 July 2011, at http://www.beeld.com/Suid_Afrika/Nuus/Paneel_vir_mediese_parool_kom_20110725

Judgment on parole: The Citizen reported that the North Gauteng High Court had found that prisoners serving life sentences imposed before 1 October 2004 were entitled to have the date on which they could be considered for parole advanced by credits earned under the Correctional Services Act of 1959, as opposed to the parole regime of the 1998 Correctional Services Act. The ruling follows an application made by Van Wyk, a man serving three life sentences for murder. Reported by Ilse de Lange, 26 July 2011, at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=212956&sn=Detail&pid=334&Ruling--strikes--a-blow-to--parole-conditions>

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

[Top of Page](#)

ALGERIA

New prison facilities: AFP reported that the Algerian Government had made a commitment to end overpopulation in prisons by providing new facilities. The report quoted the Justice Minister, Tayeb Belaiz, as saying that currently Algeria has 56 000 prisoners accommodated in 133 prison facilities. Human rights organizations have reportedly complained that the prison and detention conditions fall short of international standards. Reported by AFP, 15 July 2011, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gFpHYtDLgZVbqHt7N1Ic1rkKiTmw?docId=CNG.15e6fb7b6a41f06eb05223cc51ca0fe9.711>

ANGOLA

Calls for the release of activist: Amnesty International has called for authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo to release Agostinho Chicaia, an environmentalist and former president of the banned Angolan human rights organization Mpalabanda. Chicaia was arrested in Kinshasa on 20 June 2011 in connection with the attack on the Togolese football team in 2010. Reported by All Africa.com 6 July 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107061589.html>

BENIN

Presidential pardons not implemented: L'événement Précis reported that approximately 170 prisoners were granted a presidential pardon in the year 2010. However, only three have since been released. The procedures were reportedly slowed down by the Ministry of Justice and the prison directors. Original report in French. Reported by Médard Gandonou, L'Événement Précis, 6 July 2011, at <http://levenementprecis.com/?p=7444>

BOTSWANA

Prison officials strike illegal: The Gazette Botswana reported that the Acting Minister of Defence, Justice and Security, Edwin Batshu, had said that the Prison Act does not allow prison officials to engage in strikes for the purpose of drawing attention to poor working conditions. The report added that prison officials are not allowed by law to be members of trade unions. Reported by the Gazette Botswana.com, 12 July 2011, at http://gazettebw.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10517:soldiers-police-and-prisons-not-allowed-to-strike&catid=18:headlines&Itemid=2

Botswana criticized for failing to provide ARVs to foreign prisoners: MMEGI reported that prisons should extend the administration of ARVs to foreign prisoners, as it is a violation of their right life to deny them treatment. The current policy reportedly excludes foreign prisoners from such treatment. Reported by MMEGI, 27 July 2011, at <http://www.mmegi.bw/index.php?sid=9&aid=503&dir=2011/July/Tuesday26>

BURUNDI

Release of detained lawyers urged: Amnesty International reported that it has called on authorities in Burundi to release two lawyers who are being detained in prison in connection with having communicated with French journalists about a case of alleged rape. The report quotes Erwin van der Borght, Amnesty International's Africa Programme Director as saying that "arresting these lawyers violates the right to freedom of expression." Reported by Amnesty International, 28 July 2011, at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/burundi-urged-release-prominent-lawyers-jailed-spurious-charges-2011-07-28>

CAMEROON

Prisoner hangs himself: Jade Cameroun reported that a prisoner was found dead on 21 June in a military police cell in Bazou, after he hanged himself with the chain that was used to restrain him. The President of the Cameroonian Human Rights League stated that this incident was a consequence of the generally poor

conditions in which detainees are being held in cells across the Eastern region. Original report in French. Reported by Guy Modeste Dzudie and Charles Nfongang, Jade Cameroun, 6 July 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=192>

Youth rehabilitation programmes at New Bell Prison: Jade Cameroun reported that the New Bell Prison had reserved a special section for the 32 detainees between the ages of 15 and 18 years. Five of these children have reportedly been sentenced while the others are awaiting trial. The children also reportedly attend classes regularly. Original report in French. Reported by Théodore Chopa, Jade Cameroun, 18 July 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=194>

No food provided for remand detainees: Jade Cameroun reported that remand detainees in Douala are not given food by the prison authorities and are therefore forced to rely on visitors to feed them. The prison budget reportedly does not make provision for buying food for remand detainees even though the Criminal Procedure Code stipulates that this is the state's responsibility. Original report in French. Reported by Anne Matho, Jade Cameroun, 20 July 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=195>

COTE D'IVOIRE

Red Cross visits detainees: Afropages reported that during a four-day visit in July, the ICRC visited several persons detained or under house arrest after the post election unrest in Côte d'Ivoire. Those visited include former President Laurent Gbagbo and his wife. The ICRC did not comment on the conditions of detention, but insisted that it proceeded under its usual operational framework, which involved confidential interviews with individuals. Reported by Afropages, 22 July 2011, at <http://www.afropages.fr/20110722612212/>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Children in adult prisons: SOS Childrens Villages reported that about 3000 children are still in prison in the Democratic Republic of Congo, two years after the country enacted legislation making it illegal to detain children in adult prisons. The legislation, which took effect in 2009, also increased the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18. A shortage of resources is reportedly the reason for the legislation's failed implementation. Reported by SOS Children Villages, 1 July 2011, at <http://www.soschildrensvillages.org.uk/charity-news/3-000-children-in-democratic-republic-of-congo2019s-adult-jails>

Shots fired during prison protest: Radio Okapi reported that shots had been fired on the morning of 19 July 2011 in Kindu Prison in Maniema. Prisoners were reportedly protesting against the food shortages in the prison. The 38 prisoners considered responsible for starting the riot were transferred to Lwama military camp. Original report in French. Radio Okapi, 19 July 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2011/07/19/kindu-retour-au-calme-apres-des-coups-de-feu-a-la-prison-centrale/>

Ngandajika Prison lacks toilets: Radio Okapi reported that the recently re-opened Ngandajika prison still has many problems despite having been re-constructed. In order to access the toilets, for example, prisoners reportedly need to be escorted from their cells. Original report in French. Radio Okapi, 21 July 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2011/07/21/mbuji-mayi-les-cellules-de-la-prison-de-ngandajika-manquent-de-latrines/>

EGYPT

Detainees abused in prison: Bikyamasr reported that detainees had been beaten and denied medical aid during searches carried out by prison officials on 24 July 2011. The report also called for an end to the military-driven justice system, adding that those detained during the revolution should be released. Reported

by Joseph Mayton, 27 July 2011, at <http://bikyamasr.com/wordpress/?p=37645>

GAMBIA

Torture widespread in Gambia: Voice of America reported that torture in prisons and the disappearance of political activists has become an aspect of daily political life in Gambia. The report quotes Amnesty International Deputy Africa Director, Tawanda Hondora, saying that the government uses detention and torture to "ruthlessly quash all forms of dissent." Reported by Voice of America News, 21 July 2011, at <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Amnesty-Torture-Widespread-in-Gambia-After-17-Years-of-Jammeh-125989488.html>

GHANA

Children urged to lie about their age: Joy Online reported that investigations by the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice in the Ashanti Region had established that police prosecutors urge children to lie about their ages before a court. The report said that as a result of this, children are sentenced to serve lengthy terms of imprisonment as the judges treat them as adults. Reported by Joy Online 6 July 2011, at <http://news.myjoyonline.com/news/201107/68785.asp>

KENYA

New legislation to benefit prisoners: The Nation reported that Kenya intends to enact legislation that will benefit prisoners by allowing them to earn an income while in prison and complete educational programs. The report said that intention was to align all legislation with constitutional provisions relevant to correctional institutions. Reported by Benjamin Muindi, 23 July 2011, at <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/politics/New+Bills+propose+wages+for+prisoners+/-/1064/1206482/-/14y4I9b/-/>

Judges back death penalty: AllAfrica.com reported that certain judges are in favour of the use of the death penalty as punishment for capital offences. Their comments were captured at the conference, "Round table on death penalty in East Africa: Challenges, strategies and comparative jurisprudence" held in Nairobi. Reported by Ephraim Kasozi, 26 July 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107260091.html>

Prison officials support the abolition of the death penalty: All Africa.com reported that Ugandan and Kenyan prison authorities supported the abolition of the death penalty. The Commissioner General of Uganda Prisons reportedly said that "it is ironic and traumatising for us to lead the people we have stayed with for years to the hangman's noose." Reported by AllAfrica.com, 27 July 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107270131.html>

MALAWI

Protesters arrested and detained: The Guardian reported that 200 detainees were awaiting trial throughout Malawi following protests over the worsening socio-economic situation. Reported by The Guardian, 22 July 2011, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/jul/22/malawi-burials-leader-vows-halt-riots>

MAURITANIA

Four escaped prisoners extradited by Senegal: AffaireBi reported that four prisoners who escaped from a Mauritanian prison had been caught by Senegalese authorities and extradited back to Mauritania. They were reportedly captured following collaborative efforts of the Mauritanian and Senegalese security forces. Original report in French. Reported by AffaireBi, 22 July 2011, at

http://www.affairebi.com/Des-evades-d-une-prison-mauritanienne-extrades-par-Senegal_a201.html

MOZAMBIQUE

Prisoner dies of assault: Club of Mozambique reported that a prisoner, Gabriel David Guenze, had died in prison in the district of Barue from injuries he sustained after being severely beaten by the prison commander. The report stated that the prison official had been arrested and would appear in court soon. Reported by Club of Mozambique, 20 July 2011, at

<http://www.clubofmozambique.com/solutions1/sectionnews.php?secao=mozambique&id=22365&tipo=one>

NAMIBIA

Prisoners sue authorities: The Namibian reported that three prisoners have filed a court action against the Minister of Safety and Security, the head of Windhoek Central Prison and the nurse in charge of the clinic at the prison alleging poor diet, medical care and lack of accountability. Reported by Werner Menges, 18 July 2011, at <http://www.namibian.com.na/news/full-story/archive/2011/july/article/court-orders-prison-probe>

NIGERIA

Inmates to access university education: AllAfrica.com reported that a special study centre had been opened at the Enugu prison to give prisoners the opportunity to access university education. Reported by Ismail Mudashir, 4 July 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107041089.html>

Overcrowding in Owerri prisons: Vanguard Nigeria reported that overcrowding had reached unprecedented levels in federal prisons in Nigeria. Prisons reportedly built to accommodate 500 prisoners are housing 1 500 prisoners, 70% of whom are remand detainees. Reported by Chidi Nkwopara, 15 July 2011, at <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/07/shocking-ales-from-owerri-prisons/>

Challenges in the prison and criminal justice system: 234next.com reported that the Attorney-General of the Nigeria Federation and Minister of Justice, Mohammed Bello Adoke, blamed lawyers for the congestion in prisons, as "some of them collect part-payments to represent these inmates only to abandon the cases." The Attorney-General is also quoted as saying that other challenges in the prison system include "chronic delays in the trial of cases, lack of effective coordination across the criminal justice system?absence of clear and consistent guidelines for prosecutors, growing numbers of remand detainees and limited alternatives to custodial sentences." Reported by Gowon Emakpe, 19 July 2011, at <http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/News/5733791-147/story.csp>

HIV in prison: Vanguard Nigeria reported that six prisoners had died as a result of complications related to HIV/AIDS. Another twelve inmates are reportedly battling with complications linked to the virus. The report added that a shortage of anti-retroviral drugs worsened the situation. Reported by Chidi Nkwopara, 28 July 2011, at <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/07/hiv-aids-kills-6-inmates-of-owerri-prisons/>

RWANDA

Prisoners acquire leadership skills: AllAfrica.com reported that a group of 50 prisoners at Kigali Central Prison were awarded certificates after completing an extensive training seminar in management and leadership. The training was reportedly organised by the Rwanda Correctional Service. 150 inmates are said to have gone through the training programme since it commenced. Reported by Stevenson Mugisha, 25 July 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107251039.html>

SOMALIA

Allegations of illegal prisons in Somalia: The Atlanta Post reported that Nation magazine author Jeremy

Scahill had unearthed what many believe is a secret prison for terrorists in Somalia run by the CIA. Scahill reportedly describes this prison as a "Guantanamo Bay-style facility" that "operates without the attendant political backlash". Reported by Alexis Garrett Stodghill, 18 July 2011, at <http://atlantapost.com/2011/07/18/cia-accused-of-running-secret-terrorist-prison-in-somalia/>

SUDAN

Imprisoned for highlighting abuse: News24 reported that a journalist, Amal Habani, who wrote about sexual assault by security personnel, was sentenced to prison or the option of a \$750 fine by a court in North Sudan. She is reportedly the second female journalist this year to be affected by such a ruling. Reported by News24, 25 July 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Sudanese-reporter-jailed-for-rape-story-20110725>

TUNISIA

Ben Ali sentenced to 15 years imprisonment: iafrica.com reported that ousted Tunisian president Zine el Abidine Ben Ali was sentenced in his absence to 15 years imprisonment for possession of arms, drugs and archaeological artefacts. The former president and his wife have already been sentenced to 35 years imprisonment for misappropriating public funds. Reported by iAfrica.com, 4 July 2011, at <http://news.iafrica.com/worldnews/739007.html>

Prisoners injured in a fire: Reuters reported that at least one person died when a fire broke out at a Tunisian prison. It is suspected that the fire was deliberately started by prisoners in order to "stage mass breakouts". Reported by Reuters, 5 July 2011, at <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E7640E4201>

UGANDA

Babies serving time with mothers: The New Vision carried a story in which it alleged that seven babies are living in Arua Prison. A survey reportedly carried out by the African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect revealed that the babies were born of convicted women and women in remand detention. The report also stated that juvenile offenders are forced to share prison accommodation with adult prisoners. Reported by Richard Drasimaku, 5 July 2011, at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/16/759462>

President criticised over bail proposal: The Monitor reported that President Museveni's intention to hold a referendum on his proposal to scrap the constitutional right to bail for specific offences has drawn criticism from human rights activists. According to the proposal, those accused of dissent, protest, riots, treason, rape, murder, defilement or economic sabotage would be held in custody for six months before a bail application would be considered. Reported by John Njoroge, 14 July 2011, at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1200930/-/bl79gtz/-/>

Inmates lack medical attention: The Monitor reported that prisoners across Uganda living with HIV/Aids and other illnesses are being neglected in what the authorities referred to as "uncaring, inhumane and criminal injustice." Other problems highlighted in the report are poor diet, bedding and inadequate uniforms for prisoners. Reported by Yasiin Mugerwa, 21 July 2011, at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1205086/-/bl3yshz/-/>

Calls made for journalist to be brought to court: Human Rights Watch has called for the immediate release or charging of Augustine Okello, a journalist from Lira-based Radio Rhino, who was abducted on 12 July 2011. Human Rights Watch expressed concern that security forces detaining Okello continue to "deny him his rights." Reported by Human Rights Watch, 21 July 2011, at <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/07/23/uganda-charge-or-release-detained-journalist>

ZAMBIA

Prison records bumper harvest: The Times reported that the Zambia Prisons Service has recorded a bumper maize harvest from its prisons. The report quotes the Commissioner of Prisons, Percy Chato, saying that the projects were "receiving support from the Access to Justice Programme and the German Technical Cooperation through the donation of vehicles to supervise the farms and ensure that projects were monitored to achieve the desired results". Reported by Davies Chanda, 6 July 2011, at http://www.times.co.zm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=163:prisons-records-maize-bumper-harvest&catid=36:local-news&Itemid=27

Zambia and Mozambique prison transfer agreement: The Daily Mail reported that Zambia and Mozambique had signed a memorandum of understanding on the transfer of convicted persons between the two countries, allowing Zambians imprisoned in Mozambique to serve their sentences in their home country and vice-versa. The report said that the arrangement is expected to promote family contact and enhance rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Reported by Yande Syampeyo, 26 July 2011, at <http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/media/news/viewnews.cgi?category=8&id=1311633135>

ZIMBABWE

Remand detainees' application refused: The Herald reported that a regional magistrate has thrown out an application for referral to the Supreme Court by treason suspects Albert Matapo and Lucky Mhungu. The detainees had argued that their rights were violated as they were ill-treated by prison officials and their cells were not suitable for human habitation. Reported by The Herald, 4 July 2011, at http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14379:matapos-application-thrown-out&catid=46:crime-a-courts&Itemid=138

ZANU PF activist sentenced to death: The Zim Eye reported that a ZANU PF supporter, Norman Sibanda, who was convicted of fatally injuring an opposition supporter was sentenced to death by the Bulawayo High Court. Reported by the Zim Eye, 5 July 2011, at <http://www.zimeye.org/?p=32031>

Hangman's job still on offer: The Telegraph reported that 60 prisoners are currently awaiting execution because there is reportedly no executioner to do the job. The report quotes the Deputy Minister of Justice, Obert Gutu, as saying that "In the African culture, a job that entails the killing of another human being is not considered a job at all." Reported by Aislinn Laing, 8 July 2011, at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/zimbabwe/8626027/Death-row-backlog-as-Zimbabweans-shun-hangman-role.html>

Remand detainees denied medical treatment: SW Radio Africa reported that a group of 24 MDC activists facing charges in connection with the killing of a police officer have alleged that police officials have denied them access to medical treatment. The detainees also reportedly told the court that they were assaulted by the police during interrogation. Reported by Tererai Karimakwenda, 15 July 2011, at <http://www.swradioafrica.com/news150711/glenview150711.htm>

Minister calls for closure of condemned cells: The Zimbabwean reported that the Minister of State has called for the closure of condemned police cells. In his submission to the Mayor of Harare, the Minister states that the cells are not in a state fit for accommodating people. In the past the Chief Justice has described the cells as "degrading, inhumane and unfit for holding criminal suspects." Reported by the Zimbabwean, 28 July 2011, at <http://www.thezimbabwemail.com/zimbabwe/8636-minister-calls-for-closure-of-condemned-prison.html>

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