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Two prison warders dismissed: It is reported that two prison warders linked to the Harrismith prison escape have been dismissed by the Department of Correctional Services. Spokesperson Manelisi Wolela said the dismissal followed a four-hour fact-finding visit to the facility by the Minister of Correctional Services, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula. IOL reported that the dismissal was provoked when more than 40 awaiting-trial prisoners escaped from the prison. Mapisa-Nqakula said a breach of security could not be tolerated because South Africans and Parliament expected not just a reduction in escapes, but no escapes from correctional centres. According to the report, only eight of the escaped prisoners have been rearrested. The Harrismith Correctional Centre houses 236 inmates, 91 of whom are remand prisoners. SAPA, 1 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=nw20100601221758608C216660

Correctional Services warned to fix prisons in eight months: It was reported that the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services has given an ultimatum to the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) to fix the deteriorating prison conditions within eight months. The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services, Vincent Smith, said that members of Parliament are tired of "good reports about the state of prisons" which do not reflect reality. Smith also said that it's time Parliament stop approving Correctional Services budget until it does what it is expected to do. Reported by the Cape Argus, at <http://www.capeargus.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=3179&fRequestedUrl=%2Findex.php%3FfArticleId%3D5498785> Subscription required.

PAROLE AND SENTENCING

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Gun dealer sentenced to 20 years in prison: Acting Judge Linus Phoswa of the Durban high Court has sentenced a man to 20 years imprisonment for selling 98 firearms stolen from the Nanda police station, IOL reported. According to the report, Thulisani Trevor Mfeka, 29, who worked as an exhibit clerk at the Nanda police station stole the firearms and sold them to other policemen and members of the public for personal gain. The incident led to the arrest of three police officers and the suspension of the Station Commander by the National Police

Commissioner, General Bheki Cele. SAPA, 4 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=nw20100604120229225C557123

Mitchell's Plain parolees take up community service: A number of Mitchell's Plain parolees are reported to have joined the Mitchell's Plane community to fight against crime. According to a report on IOL the parolees became involved after the abduction of a 12-year-old girl and an eight-year-old boy. An IOL report noted that 20 parolees, all of whom live in the Mitchells Plain area and who have been sentenced to community service, started clearing bushes in the area that served as criminal hideouts. Mitchells Plain community corrections clerk, Ferdinand April, said "The men feel good that they were able to give back to the community, and help make a difference to the crime situation." Reported by Esther Lewis, 7 June 2010 http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20100607140726476C499823

Apartheid-era government officials visit Eugene de Kock in prison: IOL reported that that Pik Botha, South Africa's last apartheid-era Foreign Affairs Minister, and his former cabinet colleague Barend du Plessis, have paid a visit to Vlakplaas commander Eugene de Kock who is currently in prison. President Jacob Zuma is reported to have visited Eugene de Kock in April 2009 before he was elected president of South Africa, IOL noted. Despite repeated reports that President Jacob Zuma may be considering pardoning De Kock, who has served 16 years of a 212-year prison term, Pik Botha, during his visit refused to make statements about his release but said "I believe that this matter ought to be resolved in terms of the norms of the law and of humanitarian justice." SAPA, 7 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=nw20100607181836916C623252

57-year old grandmother will spend 20 years in prison for murder: A 57-year old Durban woman was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for the murder of her daughter-in-law. The Pietermaritzburg High Court sentenced Romila Singh for the murder of Fiona Khader, 27. Singh killed Khader because she had assaulted her two grandchildren, aged five and seven, with a sjambok, and had also hit Singh with a stick on several occasions. Singh testified in mitigation of sentence that Khader had made her "very angry", so she decided to have her killed and procured the services of a man who used to loiter outside a shopping centre in Durban, known as Simon, to do the job. Simon agreed to kill Khader for R5 000; he has evaded capture to date. Reported by Sharika Regchand, 10 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20100610044023751C904010

Bank teller gets 3 years house arrest: According to a report in IOL, a bank teller was sentenced to three years under house arrest by the Cape Town Magistrate's Court for the illegal possession and use of a 'skimming' device. Bulelwa Sweetness Yanta (34), a teller at a township branch of the Capitec Bank, was convicted on four charges involving the illegal possession and use of a 'skimming' device – an electronic device that reads confidential data on credit and debit cards. According to the report, Magistrate Ingrid Freitag found no mitigating factors other than that Yanta was a first-time offender and that her aged parents needed her financial support. Freitag said the circumstances of the case in fact justified a prison term but for her parents, the court would impose house arrest instead to enable her to earn a living. SAPA, 18 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=nw20100617222120983C214955

The DA opposes Clive Derby-Lewis' parole application: A report by IOL noted that the Democratic Alliance (DA) is opposing the granting of parole to South African Communist Party (SACP) leader Chris Hani's killer, Clive Derby-Lewis, even though the prisoner is eligible for parole. James Selfe of the DA explained in the report that "Whilst it is true that in terms of the legislation Clive Derby-Lewis is entitled to a parole hearing after serving 15 years in prison, which is the amount of time that he has served to date, the vast majority of prisoners with life sentences wait for 25 years before being considered for parole". Derby-Lewis, whose parole is currently under debate, was convicted for his part in the murder of the South African Communist Party (SACP) general secretary in 1993. He was sentenced to death, but the sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment when capital punishment was abolished. SAPA, 23 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&

[art_id=nw20100623143020737C894270](#)

Chris Hani's killer parole battle against SACP turned unsuccessful: It was reported that the parole board ruled against Clive Derby-Lewis application for parole. Clive Derby-Lewis was convicted for killing Communist Party leader Chris Hani in 1993. His battle to oppose SACP attendance at the parole board hearing turned out unsuccessful and his application failed after SACP General Secretary, Blade Nzimande, argued in the parole board hearing that Derby-Lewis "failed to show any remorse to the crime he committed against the Hani family". Reported by The Times, 23 June 2010, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/thetimes/article516676.ece/Hani-killer-fails-to-silence-SACP-at-parole-hearing>

Two years for robbing German soccer fan: Mothusi Phiri (21), has been sentenced to 2-years imprisonment for robbing a German soccer fan at Rustenburg, IOL reported. According to the report, the German soccer fan was robbed after the match between Uruguay and Mexico held at the Rustenburg stadium. Phiri robbed the man of a Fifa complimentary blanket, a guideline book and three bottles of Budweiser, IOL reported. He was found guilty in the World Cup Court and sentenced to 36 months imprisonment of which 12 months were suspended for three years. He was also declared unfit to possess a firearm. SAPA, 25 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=6&click_id=15&art_id=nw20100625150040744C290202

British soccer fan may face 1 year in prison or pay fine of R8 000

A report in The Citizen noted that a British man (24) has been fined an effective R8 000 or one year in prison by a World Cup Court in Bloemfontein after a car accident on the N1 highway leaving one person dead. According to the report the court found James Haywood guilty of culpable homicide and fined him the sum of R24 000, or three years' imprisonment, of which R16 000 or two years, was suspended for five years. The Citizen report added that Haywood had pleaded guilty to a charge. He and two friends were on their way to Bloemfontein on Sunday to watch the match between Slovakia and Paraguay when the accident happened 30 kilometres south of the city. SAPA, 28 June 2010, The Citizen, at http://www.citizen.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=75822&catid=25:local-news&Itemid=34

PRISON CONDITIONS

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Warders' strike leave 3000 prisoners without food: According to a report in The Sowetan, 3000 prisoners at the privately owned Kutama-Sinthumule Maximum Prison in Louis Trichardt, Limpopo, were left hungry after a wildcat strike by warders. The warders were striking in demand for the implementation of Occupation Specific Dispensation (OSD). The incident, according to The Sowetan, left the management in despair as they fled from the premises, leaving over 3500 prisoners hungry. According to the report, about 300 warders were involved in the strike action. Golden Miles-Bhudu, president of the South African Prisoners Organisation for Human Rights said "This is very sad. Prisoners should not suffer because of differences between employees and management. The strike will compromise the immune systems of those suffering from HIV-Aids because they need food and medication on a regular basis." Reported by Chester Makana, 10 June 2010, Sowetan, at <http://www.sowetan.co.za/News/Article.aspx?id=1150118>

Over 3000 beds made available to accommodate World Cup offenders: The Department of Correctional Services (DCS) has made 3 800 beds available for awaiting trial prisoners during the World Cup, noted a report in Die Burger. The prisons will be used only when the cells at police stations are full, the DCS said. Arrangements are in place to transfer prisoners to other prisons in order to create space for detainees. According to the report, foreigners will be kept separately to ensure their safety. The DCS National Commissioner, Tom Moyane, said almost 6 000 television sets were available in these communal cells. The television sets are usually used for educational purposes, but prisoners will be allowed to watch the World Cup. *Original report in Afrikaans.* Die Burger, 11 June 2010, at <http://www.dieburger.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Tronke-landwyd-is-ook-gerat-vir-toernooi-20100611>

Over 20 000 prisoners to receive HIV screening: The Departments of Health and

Correctional Services, have in a joint initiative embarked on a provincial campaign against HIV in prisons in the KwaZulu-Natal province. A report in Bua News noted that reducing the transmission of HIV in prisons was an important step in reducing the spread of infection in broader society. Correctional Services Regional Commissioner, Mnikelwa Nxele, is quoted saying that "Our target is to counsel and test at least 50 percent of our staff compliment and also counsel and test at least 21 000 of the offenders in our care". Bua News, 24 June 2010, at <http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/10/10062410551001> see also <http://www.politicsweb.co.za/politicsweb/view/politicsweb/en/page71654?oid=182990&sn=Detail>

SECURITY AND ESCAPES

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Escaped prisoners rearrested: Some of the prisoners who escaped from the Free State prison of Harrismith have been rearrested after a joint action between the Department of Correctional Services and the police. It was reported on the IOL site that only six of the 41 awaiting-trial prisoners were recaptured. Details of the arrests are yet to be made available. Correctional Services spokesperson, Manelisi Wolela, said "The minister will get a firsthand briefing on circumstances surrounding the escape", adding that "[A] prison warder was held for some time in one of the cells before they took his keys and opened the cells, allowing prisoners to escape". SAPA, 1 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=nw20100601083941794C736177 See also http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=nw20100602222000779C875071

Prisoner escape send shock waves to victims: Three victims of a prisoner who recently escaped from Bavianspoort Medium Prison have expressed shock and dismay at the news. The three, all women, are reported to have been raped by the prisoner leading to his imprisonment. Shortly after the 27-year-old Hammanskraal man's absence was discovered at Bavianspoort, two officials and their supervisor on duty at the time were suspended, Correctional Services spokesman Manelisi Wolela said. "He was kept in isolation as he is regarded as dangerous. I was told this suspect was kept in a single cell. Police were informed of the escape." "The investigation, by the police and Correctional Services, will determine how and exactly when this man escaped," Wolela added. Reported by Hanti Otto, 7 June, 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20100607043734913C341853

Community assist in prisoners recapture: A report by IOL stated that community members have assisted police in the recapture of 12 prisoners who escaped from the Harrismith prison in the Free State. The report noted that the prisoners were traced to Qwaqwa with the help of community members. The 12 prisoners, who escaped from the Harrismith Prison's B-section between 5pm and 6pm during lockdown time, are expected to appear in the Harrismith Magistrate's Court on escape charges. According to the Minister of Correctional Services, the incident marks the largest single prison escape to date. SAPA, 3 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=nw20100602222000779C875071

SOUTH AFRICANS IMPRISONED ABROAD

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Prison term increased for South African man in Afghanistan: A South African security specialist imprisoned in Afghanistan for killing an Afghan security guard who threatened to kill several colleagues had his sentence increased by 11 years on appeal. A Beeld report noted that Phil Young of Cape Town was arrested last year for shooting the Afghan guard after the guard had pulled a gun and fired a shot. The court held that Young's retaliation was disproportionate in relation to the threat posed by the Afghan. He now has to serve 16 years in prison. His family said they would appeal again to the Supreme Court and address a petition to President Hamid Kharzai for a presidential pardon. *Original report in Afrikaans.* Reported by Erika Gibson, 17 June 2010, Beeld, at <http://www.beeld.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/SA-man-sit-langer-in-tronk-na-appel-20100617>

Judge seeks answers to prevent brutality of crimes: A judge of the Free State division, SPB Hancke, has called for research on ways to prevent brutality associated with some crimes. The judge's appeal followed his sentencing of Joseph Hlongwane (22) for the murder of Alice Lotter (76). The report noted that the victim had 38 knife wounds on her neck, shoulder, face, hands, and arms. Judge Hancke said that "the court was still in the dark about the motivation for the brutality and degree of violence used. *Original in Afrikaans*. Reported by Volksblad, 10 June 2010, at <http://www.volksblad.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Lotter-vroue-se-moordenaar-lank-tronk-toe-20100610>

Visiting offenders who are convicted may stay longer than intended: The Department of Justice warned that foreign offenders who are convicted of World Cup-related crimes may stay in the country longer than their intended visit. The Justice Ministry spokesman, Tlali Tlali, said that "if anyone has been sentenced to imprisonment they will have to serve out their sentences in South Africa". "It does not matter if you are a foreigner or a local" he added. The report noted that the country has 56 special courts dedicated to dealing with World Cup-related offences. Reported by Judy Lelliott, 13 June 2010, The Times Live at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/article502296.ece/Prison-time-for-visiting-crooks>

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

ANGOLA

Human rights activist sentenced to three years: An Angolan human rights activist, Andre Zeferino Puati, was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison for committing crimes against the State. It is noted that Puati's conviction followed the killing of two members of the Togo national soccer team in January 2010 while they were travelling by bus to the African Nations Cup in Angola. His lawyer, Martinho Nombo, argued that the government is using the attack to justify its actions against human right activists. He added that the trial "was a shame designed to do way with Cabindans that have spoken out against human rights abuses". Reported by the News 24, 11 June 2010, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Angola-jails-rights-activist-20100611>

BOTSWANA

Prisoners compensated for abuse by warders: The Botswana Gazette has reported that a prisoner serving a 12 year sentence has been awarded compensation for damages, including pain, suffering and contumelia inflicted by warders. According to the source Boago Monyadiwa filed a claim alleging that he had been assaulted with batons, slapped, and beaten with fists, his genitals were pulled and twisted and he was beaten under his feet with the batons. Following the claim the court ordered that the victim be compensated with P 25,000 (US\$ 3500) in damages. Reported by Oarabile Mosikare, 9 June 2010, The Botswana Gazette, at http://gazettebw.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6674:prisoner-wins-p25-000-assault-suit-&catid=19:northcast&Itemid=2

Condoms may be made available in prisons: The government of Botswana may consider providing condoms to prisoners. This information was revealed by the Acting President, Lt. Gen. Mompoti, at the National Aids Council as he commented on concerns raised by the Minister of Health, Dr Reverend John Seakgosing, over the alarming increase in HIV prevalence in the country's prison population. Reported by The Southern Times, 24 June 2010, at <http://www.southerntimesafrica.com/article.php?title=Bots%20mulls%20providing%20condoms%20in%20prisons&id=4252&sid=c0540c029c2e1654212bf365665715a8>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Court imposes death sentence on two Norwegians: A military court in Congo DRC has sentenced two foreign nationals to death for espionage and murder, according to a report from IOL. The British-Norwegian national Joshua French and his counterpart Norwegian born,

Tjostolv Moland, both former Norwegian soldiers, were convicted in 2009 of murdering their driver and attempting to murder a witness. They were also convicted for spying for Norway because they were carrying military ID cards at the time. The Norwegian government has denied that the men were Norwegian spies. According to the report, the men were first convicted and sentenced to death in September 2009. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Kjetil Elsebutangen said Norway will once again communicate to Congolese authorities its position on the death penalty, most likely in a diplomatic note to Kinshasa, IOL reported. SAPA, 11 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100610221407525C685451&page_number=2

Justice system makes appeal against death sentence pointless: A News24 report said that the two Norwegian former soldiers sentenced to death in the DRC will not appeal due to concerns over the impartiality of the military court. According to the report, Joshua French, who also has British nationality, and Tjostolv Moland, were sentenced to death for espionage and the murder of their Congolese driver in May 2009. Their lawyer, Andre Kibambi said "It does not matter whether we appeal or not. It will go back before the same judges. A new trial is pointless because we can't have justice in this Military Court". The report noted that no execution has been carried out in the DRC since President Joseph Kabila came to power in 2001. SAPA, 18 June 2010, News24 at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Norwegians-on-death-row-No-appeal-20100614>

Death sentence prisoners request for presidential pardon: According to a News24 report, it is alleged that the two Norwegians sentenced to death in the Democratic Republic of Congo for murder and espionage have written to President Joseph Kabila to ask for a pardon. 'We have sent a plea for grace citing the extremely difficult conditions of their detention as well as family considerations,' said Norwegian lawyer Morten Furuholmen. Joshua French, who also has British nationality, and Tjostolv Moland, were sentenced to death last month by a Military Court in the north-eastern DRC town of Kisangani. AFP, 25 June 2010, News24, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Norwegians-ask-death-sentence-pardon-20100624>

ETHIOPIA

OLF rebels receive life imprisonment: A court in Ethiopia has sentenced Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) members to lengthy prison terms on charges of terrorism and treason, according to a report on News24. According to the report, the High Court sentenced seven commanders of the secessionist OLF to life imprisonment, while one officer was sentenced to 25 years in prison. The Ministry of Justice said "The accused were members of the OLF – an illegal organisation involved in treason and in terrorist activities meant to break up the unity of the country". The suspects were accused of killing 16 people in two attacks in eastern Ethiopia two years ago. SAPA, 6 June 2010, News24, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Ethiopia-rebels-get-lengthy-jail-terms-20100609>

KENYA

New Justice System spares child offenders: A report in Daily Nation notes that a new juvenile justice system may radically change the criminal justice to serve the needs of children who commit crime. "The key change could involve what is being called the Child Offending Teams (Cots), a diversion concept in which young offenders' cases are heard outside the court system." In a workshop held in Nairobi, stakeholders brainstormed on the concept of child offenders and the special needs of those now serving prison terms. The purpose of the workshop was to have various agencies forge a coordinated response to the problem of special needs of children caught up in crime. Reported by Dorothy Kweyu, 2 June 2010, Daily Nation, at <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/New%20justice%20system%20to%20spare%20child%20offenders%20prison%20terms/-/1056/930918/-/item/1/-/kug3fhz/-/index.html>

Prisoners are still excluded from HIV treatment: Kenya is known for its commitment to combating HIV and tuberculosis. It was reported that Kenya is the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to meet the global targets for both detecting and treating tuberculosis. However, prisoners have not yet benefited enough from the country's efforts to address problems that arise from HIV and tuberculosis. According to the source, a report from the Ministry of Home Affairs estimated that 46 inmates die every month because of dirty and crowded conditions and

a lack of adequate care. It is also reported that one in every 10 prisoners is infected with HIV. Reported by Joseph Amon, 7 June 2010, All Africa at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201006071590.html>

King'ong'o prison escapees end up with broken legs: Two prisoners who recently escaped from the King' an ong'o prison ended up with broken legs after scaling a high perimeter wall, Daily Nation reported. The two were arrested, one at the base of the prison's perimeter wall and the other within the compound as they were unable to walk after breaking their limbs. A warder was also taken to the Nyeri Provincial General Hospital with head injuries after he was hit with a metal object by the fleeing prisoners, Daily Nation reported. Daily Nation, 14 June 2010, at <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/regional/Jail%20break%20inmates%20end%20up%20with%20broken%20limbs/-/1070/938904/-/tni2pp/-/index.html>

Warder's death sparks protest: One warder was reported dead after a police shoot-out causing a sharp protest and work boycott by warders, Daily Nation reported. Warders at the Naivasha prison boycotted work after the death of their colleague during the incident. According to a Daily Nation report, the warders refused to take awaiting trial prisoners to courts for the hearing of their cases and to allow police to deliver new inmates to the prison. The Head of Prisons, Isaiah Osugo, and the Police Commissioner, Mathew Iteere, have cautioned the warders to be calm and not to disrupt the justice system. Reported by Fred Mukinda, 17 June 2010, Daily Nation, at <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/regional/Warders%20boycott%20work%20over%20colleagues%20killing/-/1070/941376/-/ndu7sv/-/index.html>

University students escape death penalty: According to a report in Daily Nation, four university students and six non-students have narrowly escaped death when a High Court judge declared they were free to go home. Mr. Gordon Onyango, Mr. David Mwangi, Mr. Victor Mulinge and Mr. George Mungai were amongst 10 men sentenced to death by a Kibera magistrate in 2005 after they were found guilty of nine counts of robbery with violence. According to the report, Lady Justices Jessie Lessit and Joyce Khaminwa ruled in their favour, when they said Mr. Mungai and Mr. Mulinge had not been mentioned or identified by any of the witnesses. They ruled that the death sentences should be revoked. Daily Nation, 17 June 2010, at <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/regional/How%20students%20escaped%20the%20death%20penalty/-/1070/941344/-/gcowhe/-/index.html>

Prisoners pay their way to freedom: The level of corruption at King'ong'o, prison, one of Kenya's major penal establishments, has come to the lime light. According to a report in Daily Nation, there are concerns that prisoners are paying their way to freedom by offering bribes to warders. "A detective familiar with the case but who cannot be named said that the two may have been aided to escape after paying a bribe, while two of their colleagues were denied such chance and only ended up breaking their legs in an attempted prison break. The two injured prisoners were taken to the Nyeri provincial general hospital with broken limbs after they were arrested a short distance from the perimeter wall," Daily Nation reported. Reported by John Njagi, 21 June 2010, Daily Nation, at <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/regional/Bribery%20slow%20wheels%20of%20justice%20fuel%20frequent%20prison%20breaks/-/1070/943866/-/4x7c13/-/index.html>

More prison reform welcomed: A letter to the Daily Nation said that the Prisons Commissioner, Isaiah Osugo, has embarked on reforming prison conditions for both warders and prisoners by ensuring that terms and conditions of service for the officers are improved. His action has been commended and welcomed by both prisoners and prison staff. According to the letter, prison warders had been working under atrocious conditions, their housing pathetic at many stations, and their remuneration very low. The author notes that it is indeed impressive that there is any discipline among prison staff at almost all the correctional institutions in the country, especially at the Kamiti Maximum Prison, which had been hit by cases of indiscipline recently. Mr Osugo's recent changes of top officers have worked well, Daily Nation reported. Letter by **Kimimaiya Kirop, 23 June 2010, Daily Nation** at <http://www.nation.co.ke/oped/Letters/Prison%20reforms%20a%20positive%20move/-/440806/945142/-/115f2g9/-/index.html>

Prisoners allowed to vote: It was reported by the BBC that an estimated 50,000 prisoners will be registered to vote in Kenya's Constitutional Referendum in August 2010 following a ruling handed down by a Kenyan court. The court's decision, which was welcomed by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), followed a petition filed by inmates at Shimo La Tewa Prison in Mombasa. Reported by BBC, 23 June 2010, at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/10395633.stm>

Electronic voter register mechanisms to speed up prison registration for referendum: It was reported that the Kenyan Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) will use electronic voter registration equipment to register inmates for the August 2010 referendum on the Constitution. Issack Hassan, Chairman of the IIEC said that the Commission will deploy trained officers to work with prisoner department officers to ensure that registration, which is planned to start on 2 July 2010, goes smoothly. The initiative follows a decision which was handed down by a court in Kenya, allowing inmates to vote in the constitutional referendum. Reported by Carol Gakii, 25 June 2010, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation at <http://www.kbc.co.ke/story.asp?ID=64866> .

LIBERIA

Justice sector seeks budget to build new prison: Liberian Justice Minister, Ms Tah, argued in Parliament that the government needs over US\$1 million to construct a new prison facility in Montserrado County. The Minister stated that the current facility on the South Beach was insufficient to accommodate the growing number of prisoners being held there, and described the overall situation as appalling. Her efforts are also geared towards increasing the salaries of police officers. Reported by Stephen Binda, 17 June 2010, The Observer at <http://www.liberianobserver.com/node/6946>

LIBYA

Amnesty International condemns 18 executions: Amnesty International (UK) has condemned the execution of 18 people in Libya. Among the executed were citizens of Chad, Egypt and Nigeria. The organisation fears that the proceedings which led to the death sentences may fall short of international fair trial standards. Reported by the BBC, 2 June 2010, at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/africa/10214416.stm>

Libya releases Swiss man from prison: Max Goeldi, the head of the Libya operations of Swiss engineering firm ABB, who was sentenced to four months imprisonment has been released IOL reported . His imprisonment has been the centre of a long diplomatic squabble between Tripoli and Berne. Salah Zahaf said. "[Goeldi] is in good condition physically and morally. He is in a hotel in Tripoli right now and on Saturday we will start making arrangements for an exit visa so he can return home." His problems with the Libyan authorities began days after the July 2008 arrest of a son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in Geneva on charges - which were swiftly dropped - of mistreating two domestic employees. Reuters, 11, June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100610221847821C782877

Libya to free 276 prisoners to Niger: A senior Libyan prison official was cited saying nearly 300 prisoners from neighbouring Niger, who were imprisoned in Libya, were to be returned home. The initiative falls within the scope of an agreement on judicial cooperation signed between the two countries in early June 2010. "The Libyan prison official said that of the 276 prisoners to be handed over to the Niger authorities, 198 were convicted criminals and 78 were awaiting trial". Reported by the Reuters, 17 June 2010, at <http://www.easimail.co.za/Home/link.asp?id=17477&hash=998de9?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

Human rights violations persist despite improved international image: A recent report by Amnesty International indicates that there continues to be severe human rights abuses in Libya despite slight improvements in its international image. The 135-page report highlights, amongst others, problems with the Libyan prison system such as lengthy pre-trial detention, torture and the use of the death penalty disproportionately against foreigners. The report also highlights that in 1996 about 1200 detainees were subjected to extrajudicial execution and to this date investigations have not adequately addressed the matter. According to the report

some of the victims' families have been compensated on condition that they do not seek judicial remedies. Reported by Ian Black, 23 June 2010, the Guardian at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jun/23/libya-human-rights-image-amnesty>

MALAWI

Pardoned gay couple 'no longer in love': After the presidential pardon that saw the release of a gay couple sentenced to 14-years in prison, IOL news reported that the couple separated six months after their conviction. Steven Monjeza, 26, and Tiwonge Chimbalanga, 20, were arrested in December 2009 days after holding an engagement ceremony in conservative Malawi's commercial hub Blantyre. Their arrest triggered international protests over the country's anti-gay laws. IOL noted that they were imprisoned for five months during their trial and after their conviction, until President Bingu wa Mutharika pardoned them on 29 May 2010. "I am no longer in love with Tiwonge Chimbalanga. I am in love with a woman called Dorothy Gulo" Monjeza told reporters. "We are planning something for the future with Dorothy," Steven Monjeza said. SAPA-APF, 8 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100608222349511C524141

Young lawyer appeals for funds to assist prisoners: IOMToday reported that English lawyer, Margaret Dudgeon, is engaged in assisting inmates in Malawi prisons. After seeing the conditions of detention of inmates in Malawi as what she described as "abhorrent", Dudgeon seeks to continue her work in the world's third poorest country. A survey to document Malawian prisoners' health and treatment is currently on her agenda. Reported by Adrian Darbyshire, 24 June 2010, at <http://www.iomtoday.co.im/news/Margaret-resumes-Malawi-mission.6350194.jp>

MAURITANIA

Nouakchott court sentence 10 men to death: An alarming rise in crime in Mauritania has caused a court in Nouakchott to sentence 10 men to death, IOL reported. According to the report, the sentences were pronounced against three Mauritians and six foreigners for four different murders committed in 2008. Two of the victims were expatriate restaurant owners; a French woman was attacked in her home by two Guineans and a Gambian with intent to rob, and a Lebanese was murdered by three Nigerian employees. Three Mauritians were found guilty of killing a local shopkeeper, who was found dead with 17 stab wounds, and a fourth was sentenced for murdering a friend in a jealous rage. It was reported that the death penalty has not been applied in Mauritania since 1987. SAPA-APF, 23 June, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100623193905351C661179

MAURITIUS

Mauritius joins nations committed to try pirates: It was reported that Mauritius has joined Kenya, Tanzania, and Seychelles in their endeavours to try and hold accountable suspects for committing piracy. This information was revealed by the Mauritian Prime Minister, Navinchandra Ramgoolam, who also said that the decision to try and imprison suspected pirates was linked to the country's need to protect its interests in fishing and tourism. Reported by Daniel Richey, 13 June 2010, The Jurist at <http://jurist.org/paperchase/2010/06/mauritius-to-try-accused-somali-pirates.php>

MOZAMBIQUE

Minister admits poor prisons conditions: The Minister of Justice has admitted that her department needs to do much to be able to bring its prisons up to standard. Justice Minister Benvinda Levy said a lot is yet to be done to create space for prisoners to be rehabilitated, allAfrica reported. According to a statement by the minister, the government is working hard to ensure that new prisons are built and the old ones rehabilitated. She added that education and professional training facilities are underway, allAfrica reported. Levy was speaking at an opening ceremony of a meeting of the Coordinating Council of the National Prison Service (SNAPRI) that took place in the district of Bilene, in the southern province of Gaza. allAfrica, 29 June 2010, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201006291112.html>

NIGER

300 prisoners return to Niger: A report in Reuters said that Libya is to set free about 300 Niger citizens serving prison terms in Libya. The move came after Libya was criticized for its harsh treatment of foreign nationals, mostly Africans. A Libyan prison official said of the 276 prisoners to be handed over to the Niger authorities, 198 were convicted criminals and 78 were awaiting trial. Reuters reported that Niger's justice minister was in Tripoli to receive the freed prisoners. However, the report noted that Libya is still holding 12 Niger citizens who were sentenced to death. Reuters, 17 June 2010, at <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE65GOK920100617>

NIGERIA

Indications that executions may resume: It was reported that while Nigeria has had an unofficial moratorium on executions since 1999 some state governors are considering resuming with executions to relieve prison overcrowding. The source suggests that there was heated debate over the issue with governors from Muslim parts of the country where the Sharia law is applicable, supporting implementation of execution orders. Reported by Toluwa Olusegun, 11 May 2010, the IPS at <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=51397>

Federal government makes efforts to reduce overcrowding in prisons: The Federal Government of Nigeria undertook to pay fines on behalf of 225 prisoners in Kaduna and Ado-Ekiti prisons. This effort from the government is in line with its commitment to decongest prisons. In most cases the government initiative will benefit convicted prisoners who have committed minor offences with the option of fines ranging between N1.500 (approximately USD 10) and N20,000 (approximately USD 133), respectively. Reported by the Punch, 11 June 2010, at <http://www.punchng.com/Articl.aspx?theartic=Art20100611247718>

RWANDA

US lawyer attempted suicide in prison: A United States law professor is alleged to have attempted suicide in prison in Rwanda. According to a report from IOL, Peter Erlinder, 62, a professor at the William Mitchell College of Law in St Paul, was imprisoned for denying the country's genocide. Erlinder was accused of violating Rwanda's laws against minimising the genocide in which more than 500 000 Rwandans, the vast majority of them ethnic Tutsis, were massacred by Hutus. The IOL report said that, professor Erlinder, who swallowed dozens of pills in his prison cell, was in Rwanda to help with the legal defence of Victoire Ingabire, an opposition leader running against the incumbent Paul Kagame. Reported by Steve Karnowski and Edmund Kagire, 2 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100602222517510C383734

Prisoner on reconciliation course awarded certificate: Members of the International Reconciliation Ministries have handed out certificates to prisoners at Kigali central prison and Rilima prison after they attended a reconciliation course, New Times reported. The training was aimed at preparing prisoners, especially those convicted for their role in the 1994 genocide, with reconciliation skills that will enable them lead in reconciliation after serving their term. According to the founder of the project, Erlene Tatum, 63 prisoners from Kigali prison and 76 from Rilima attended the course and received certificates. Tatum said "We are equipping them with what will speed this process of reconciliation so that even when they leave prison, they can continue to foster this rather than think or engage in acts of violence. Our motivation also comes from reconciliation villages like that in Musanze." Reported by Irene Nambi, 10 June 2010, New Times, at <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14287&article=30115>

ICTR longest prison term for genocide offender: The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) has called for its heaviest sentence, life imprisonment, against a former official accused of organising the massacre of thousands of Tutsis during the 1994 genocide. IOL reported that Dominique Ntawukulilyayo was the top regional official for the Gisagara region at the time of the genocide. He has been charged with genocide as well as direct and public incitement to commit genocide. "The only proper sentence the accused deserves is life imprisonment. There are no mitigating factors in this case" prosecutor Thembile Segoete said. SAPA-APF, 14 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100614161920186C779933

Government applauded for improving prison conditions: The visiting Minister of Justice of the Netherlands, Dr. Ernest Hirsch Ballin, has praised the Rwandan government for its exemplary treatment of prisoners, The New Times reported. According to the report, the remark was made after the minister visited to Mpanga Prison, located in Nyanza District, Southern Province. The Dutch government funded the construction of the prison which shelters over 6 000 genocide convicts and eight others from Sierra Leone who were convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) for war crimes. Reported by Frederic Ntawukuriryayo, 22 June 2010, The New Times, at <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14299&article=30531>

Government halt construction of courtrooms in prison premises: According to a New Times report, the Minister of Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Harerimana, has made known to the public the decision of government to halt the construction of courtrooms at prison premises. The minister was speaking during an interview with the New Time online. According to the report, the minister said, "The initiative to build court facilities within the prisons countrywide where the inmates would be tried was put on halt because we agreed with the council to first discuss it extensively," adding that "Although the construction had started in some prisons, I instructed the prison service to halt the programme until further notice." "Once we agree with the judicial council, the construction will resume because the initiative will benefit the public courts since the majority of the [prisoners] will be handled within their prisons". Reported by Frank Kanyesigye, 23 June 2010, The New Times, at <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14300&article=30577>

SUDAN

Sudanese teenager commits suicide in prison: According to a BBC report Abdullah Hagar Idris, Sudanese, was found dead after hanging in his prison cell at HMP Chelmsford on 25 December, the day after he was told he was being deported from the UK and returned to Somalia. The BBC report said that an inquest jury partly blamed the Prison Service and Essex Social Services for contributing to the death of the 18-year-old Sudanese asylum seeker. The jury criticised the way the prison gave him the news of his deportation and the level of care by social services. In January 2008 the Chief Inspector of Prisons, Anne Owers released a report into HMP Chelmsford saying it had serious deficiencies in safety, decency and activity, BBC reported. BBC, 2 June 2010, at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/essex/10220486.stm

Four men sentenced to death escape prison: A report in Daily Nation said that four men sentenced to death by hanging, for the murder of a US diplomat, have escaped from prison. The four men, all Sudanese Islamists, are said to have escaped from the Kober prison in Northern Khartoum. John Granville, 33, worked for the US Agency for International Development (USAID). He and his driver, Abdel Rahman Abbas, 40, were shot dead in their car on 1 January 2008 as they returned from a New Year's Eve celebration. Daily Nation reported that Kober prison, one of the oldest prisons in that country was built in 19th century and currently host mainly political prisoners. Daily Nation, 11 June 2010, at <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/Killers%20of%20US%20man%20escape%20from%20Sudan%20jail%20/-/1066/937006/-/tyx8nw/-/index.html>

Escaped prisoners recaptured: One of the four men sentenced to death for the murder of a US diplomat and escaped from prison, has been recaptured, IOL reported. It was noted in the report that the National Intelligence Service recaptured Abdel Raouf Abu Zaid Mohamed Hamzah, without giving any further details. The four prisoners succeeded to escape through sewerage pipes in Khartoum's Kober prison earlier this month after shooting dead a police officer as they fled past a checkpoint outside the capital, IOL reported. Reuters, 22 June 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100622143745694C346733

SOMALIA

First conviction of Somali pirates in Europe: A Dutch court has convicted five Somalis of piracy and sentenced them to five years imprisonment for trying to hijack a ship from the

Dutch Antilles in 2009, The Times reported. The Somalis had set out with the intention to hijack a ship and had targeted the Dutch Antilles-flagged Samanyolu, while it was in the Gulf of Aden in January 2009, the Rotterdam court said. The Times report noted that it is the first time a Somalian is tried and sentenced in Europe for piracy. Reuters, 17 June 2010, The Times, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/world/article508188.ece/Dutch-court-convicts-five-Somalis-of-piracy>

ZAMBIA

Journalist sentenced for criticising arrest of colleague: It was reported that Zambian journalist, Fred M'membe, was convicted of contempt of court for publishing commentaries of a US-based lawyer on a trial that was still underway. The trial involved another journalist who had sent to the Vice-President images of a woman giving birth with the aim of exposing the dire conditions of hospitals in the country. In the meantime his lawyer, Remmy Maiza, said he will appeal the court's decision of four months imprisonment with hard labour. Reported by The Times Live, 6 June 2010, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/world/article489474.ece/Zambian-editor-jailed-for-criticism>

ZIMBABWE

Diamond researcher denied bail: AllAfrica reported that the Harare Magistrate Court has denied bail to a diamond researcher, Farai Maguwu, who had allegedly reported violations of human rights in the controversial diamond fields at Chiadzwa. His lawyer, Tinoziva Bere, said that the police has failed to be consistent about the charges Maguwu is facing. According to the source, Bere said that "government should investigate allegations of human rights abuses and not arrest the person who has raised the complaints". Reported by Violet Gonda, 10 June 2010, All Africa at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201006101185.html>

Prison farm productivity affected by corruption and mismanagement: Donors are said to have withdrawn support from Hurungwe Prison farm. Barely five bales of tobacco were harvested on the more than 1700 hectare farm after a donor withdrew support from the Zimbabwe Prison Services at Hurungwe. An anonymous source stated that mismanagement and corruption are among the reasons for the donor's withdrawal. Reported by Itai Mabasa, 24 June 2010, The Zimbabwean at http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=31848:prisons-paltry-harvest&catid=28:business-news&Itemid=38

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