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GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

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Department of Correctional Services staff urged to embrace change: The Citizen reported that the National Commissioner for Correctional Services, Tom Moyane, had urged Departmental staff to embrace changes brought about by the Department's transformation programme. Commissioner Moyane had asked staff to "internalise integrity, commitment to excellence, responsibility and accountability as foundational values," critical, he said, in overcoming the challenges facing the Department. Commissioner Moyane also commended Department officials for reducing prison escapes, assaults, and unnatural deaths by over 90 percent over the last five years. The report also said that the Department was recently rated the third best "fraud and corruption fighter" out of 85 government institutions audited by an independent agency commissioned by the Department of Public Service and Administration. Reported by the Citizen, 2 February 2011, at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=169174&sn=Detail&pid=334&Correctional-Services-urged-to-embrace-change>

More funds for Correctional Services: Fin24 reported that the government is planning to spend R91 billion on keeping public order and safety in 2011. The report said that a total of R12.8 billion has been allocated to the departments of Police, Justice and Constitutional Development, Correctional Services and the Independent Complaints Directorate. It also said that a total of R 4.7 billion from efficiency savings and delayed expenditure on prison construction had been re-prioritised to cater for other items in the cluster. Reported by Troye Lund, 23 February 2011, at Fin24 at <http://fin24.com/Budget/Budget-2011/More-funds-to-fight-crime-20110223>

Dewani extradition hearing set to begin: The Thaindian News reported that the extradition case of Dewani Shrien, a British-Indian millionaire charged with killing of his wife during their honeymoon in South Africa in 2010, will begin on 3 May 2011. Citing Shrien's lawyer, the report said that the case against his extradition would focus on prison conditions in South Africa, his mental and physical conditions and whether or not he would receive a fair trial. The report also noted that others, including a taxi driver, had already been sentenced in connection with the killing. Reported by the Thaindian News, 8 February 2011, at http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/world-news/extradition-case-date-set-for-brit-indian-honeymooner-dewani-over-wifes-murder_100500274.html

SA refuses to extradite Mandela's son-in-law to the USA: News24 reported that a South African court has refused a United States extradition request for Isaac Amuah to be sent to Connecticut to face assault charges. The report said that Magistrate Tefo Myambo ruled in Amuah's favour, finding that "he was convinced the accuser was alleging rape to try to get money." Amuah left the United States twelve years ago whilst the assault charge was still pending, and has never returned. Reported by News24, 11 February 2011, at <http://www.easimail.co.za/Home/link.asp?id=19125&hash=bbaffb>

South Africa's bid for bail withdrawal fails: The Guardian.co.uk reported that South Africa's bid to get accused Shrien Dewani's bail withdrawn failed when the court ruled that he was allowed to remain at home. The report said that South Africa's application followed allegations that he had overdosed on sleeping tablets in an attempt to commit suicide. Reported by Esther Addley, 24 February 2011, Gurdian.co.uk at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/24/shrien-dewani-bail-hearing-belmarsh>

Early parole - a reward for offenders completing matric: The Sowetan Live reported that sixteen prisoners, previously held at Westville Prison, were given early parole in reward for having completed grade 12 and for having served half of their sentences during which they attended rehabilitation programmes. The report said that some of the prisoners passed their exams with good grades and were eligible to enrol for courses at universities. It also said that their tertiary studies would be sponsored by private companies who support the rehabilitation programme. Reported by Mhlaba Memela, 2 February 2011, Sowetan Live at <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2011/02/02/convicts-on-the-way-to-varsities>

Offender approaches court for review of parole decision: The Witness reported that a man who is serving a 15 year sentence approached the court alleging that despite his good behaviour in prison, he had not been considered for parole when he legally ought to have been. Cuan McKinley, imprisoned in 2001 for strangling his girlfriend to death, argued that under the applicable legislation he should have been considered for parole after serving one third of his sentence. Reported by the Witness, 10 February 2011, at http://www.witness.co.za/index.php?showcontent&global%5B_id%5D=55281

Prisoner requests early parole: IOL reported that Steven Godwin, former Fidentia employee convicted of fraud and money laundering, has approached the Western Cape High Court requesting that his 10 year sentence be reviewed and that he be released under correctional supervision. Godwin's advocate, Pieter du Toit, said that "the law made provision for some people who do rehabilitate in a shorter

period of time." However, Norman Arendse, counsel for the Department of Correctional Services said that Godwin's application should be "dismissed with costs," noting that he would only be eligible for parole in April 2013. Reported by A'Eysha Kassiem, 24 February 2011, IOL at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/goodwill-appeals-for-parole-1.1031560>

Shaik's alleged attack of journalist: Mail & Guardian Online reported that the Democratic Alliance has called for a full investigation into Schabir Shaik's alleged assault of a journalist on a golf course in Durban. The report said that Shaik allegedly throttled and slapped journalist Amanda Khoza as she attempted to enquire into claims that Shaik had possibly contravened his parole conditions by playing golf. It also said that Shaik has denied the assault and claimed that Khoza was rude and had not identified herself as a journalist. Reported by Mail & Guardian Online, 27 February 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-02-27-schabir-shaik-accused-of-assaulting-journalist>

Department of Correctional Services refuses to act against Shaik until case is clarified: SABC News reported that the Department of Correctional Services said that it cannot take any action against Schabir Shaik, accused of assaulting a journalist during an inquiry regarding his parole conditions, until a court decides the matter and the measures to be taken. It also said that a spokesperson from the Department said that Shaik's parole conditions allowed him leisure time with his family during weekends. Reported by SABC News, 28 February 2011, at <http://www.sabcnews.co.za/portal/site/SABCNews/menuitem.5c4f8fe7ee929f602ea12ea1674daeb9/?vgnnextoid=46db23d969c6e210VgnVCM10000077d4ea9bRCRD&vgnnextfmt=default&channelPath=home>

Shaik's parole case compared to Derby Lewis application: The New Age reported that the Freedom Front Plus said that the state's failure to release Clive Derby-Lewis on medical parole as it did with Schabir Shaik, was a "severe case of double standards that undermined government's credibility." Citing FF Plus leader, Pieter Mulder, the report said "while Schabir Shaik plays golf while on medical parole, Clive Derby-Lewis is receiving chemotherapy for . . . cancer." He added that "these double standards seriously affect the credibility of the department of correctional services and the relevancy of ANC ministers." Reported by the New Age, 28 February 2011, at http://www.thenewage.co.za/11603-1007-53-FF+_demands_medical_parole_for_DerbyLewis Another report from Rapport said Derby-Lewis' lawyer had labelled the Shaik parole "shameless discrimination." See Rapport, at <http://www.rapport.co.za/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Probleme-met-parool-en-prostaat-20110225>

PRISON CONDITIONS

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Prisoners challenge ban on contact visits: IOL reported that prisoners at Westville Prison, Durban, have challenged the Minister for Correctional Services Minister and officials of the Department for banning hugging and kissing during visits by relatives. The alleged ban, according to the report, was motivated by the fact that SIM cards were being given to prisoners during contact visit with relatives. The report also stated that before the court were allegations that searches after visits were being conducted in a cruel, inhumane, and degrading manner. Reported by Kamini Padayachee, IOL at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/no-smooching-for-prisoners-1.1026507>

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Constitutional Court dismisses mother's application to negotiate prison-exchange: The Beeld

reported that the Constitutional Court dismissed a bid by a mother seeking a court order directing the government to negotiate prison-exchange agreements with Mauritius. The report said that Patricia Gerber had been litigating against the government since her son was sentenced to nine years imprisonment in Mauritius for drug smuggling. The Constitutional Court dismissed the matter on the basis that it had no reasonable prospects of success. *Original report in Afrikaans*. Reported by Philip de Bruin, 13 February 2011, Beeld at <http://www.beeld.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Dwelmmuil-se-ma-verloor-in-hof-20110213>

Four South African truckers imprisoned in Zimbabwe: The Times Live reported that four South African nationals are being detained in a Harare prison based on allegations that they contracted with a businessman who reportedly de-frauded the Mugabe family. The report said that the four went to Zimbabwe to deliver four trucks which had been purchased by the family for the price of USD 1 million in 2008 from Chinese national Pink Sung Hsieh. The report also said that according to court papers, there was no evidence of any form of connection between the South African men and Hsieh, who is now facing extradition to Zimbabwe after his arrest in South Africa. Reported by Sunday Times, 27 February 2011, at <http://www.easimail.co.za/Home/link.asp?id=19077&hash=e2d01c>

South African resident imprisoned in Dublin: The Irish Examiner reported that a British national (with South African residency) was imprisoned in Dublin in connection with illegal possession of cannabis. The report said that Deborah Stevenson had also been charged with possession of the drug with intent to supply. Ms Stevenson was scheduled to appear in court on 4 February 2011. Reported by the Irish Examiner, 28 February 2011, at <http://www.examiner.ie/breakingnews/ireland/woman-charged-in-connection-with-300k-cannabis-haul-495459.html>

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Prison sentence for illicit cigarette traders: The Citizen reported that the Tobacco Institute for South Africa (TISA) has warned that illicit tobacco traders could face a five-year prison sentence. The report said that illicit traders were cautioned after the Rustenburg Magistrate's Court sentenced two men, both engaged in the illicit trade of cigarettes, to five years in prison. The two were also fined R 530 000 for committing the offence. Francois van der Merwe, CEO of Tisa, said he was pleased with the swift judicial action taken by the South African Revenue Services (SARS) and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). Reported by Lauren Pertersen, 18 February 2011, the Citizen at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=173581&sn=Detail&pid=334<%E2%80%99s-prison-for-illicit-cigarette-traders>

Former National Commissioner of Correctional Services dies at age 52: The Mail & Guardian Online reported that Vernie Petersen, former National Commissioner for Correctional Services, died in Pretoria on Sunday 27 February 2011 at age 52. The report quoted Democratic Alliance MP James Selfe who described Petersen as a "hugely dedicated and conscientious" public servant who did "much to restore the reputation of the Department of Correctional Services. Reported by Mail & Guardian online, 27 February 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-02-28-dg-of-sport-vern timer-petersen-dies>

More churches and schools instead of prisons: iafrica.com reported that Correctional Services Acting National Commissioner, Nontsikelelo Jolingana, supports building more churches and schools instead of prisons. The report said that Jolingana urges interventions that will help to rebuild the "social fibre, social justice and peoples' connection with the creator." Solutions to the high crime levels in South Africa lie with "ordinary citizens," she reportedly said, and praised churches for increasing spiritual

sessions in correctional services from 168 000 to 178 000 in the 2009-2010 financial year. Reported by iAfrica.com, 28 February 2011, at <http://news.iafrica.com/sa/709845.html>

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CAMEROON

Journalist detained after having met with detained former minister: Cameroun Actu reported that Raphaël Kamtchuen, director of Cameroonian newspaper La Boussole, has been detained since 17 February at the Kondengui police station in Yaoundé. Kamtchuen has been accused by the Director of the Central Prison of Kondengui of breaking and entering the prison in order to steal "secret" documents from former Minister of Economics and Finance, Abah Abah, detained on charges of misappropriation of public funds. No official information on the arrest had been released by Cameroonian authorities. *Original report in French.* Reported by Cameroun Actu, 21 February 2011, at <http://www.camerounactu.net/fr/communication/medias/2163-un-journaliste-incarcere-pour-avoir-rencontre-abah-abah>

Concern over detention of journalists: Kaï Walaï reported that the UN Committee against Torture expressed concern as early as May 2010 over the increasing number of journalists and human rights activists being held in detention alleging torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. In April 2010, a Cameroonian journalist, Bibi Ngota, died in detention in Yaoundé. *Original report in French.* Reported by Kaï Walaï, 21 February 2011, at <http://www.kwalai.com/toute-lactu-minute-by-minute/media/8035-cameroun-un-journaliste-incarcere-apres-avoir-rencontre-un-detenu-en-prison>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Commander imprisoned for mass rape: The New Age reported that a Congolese court sentenced an army colonel to twenty years in prison for crimes against humanity involving sexual violence against women. The report said that after Lieutenant Colonel Mutuare Daniel Kibibi's soldiers attacked the village of Fizi, doctors were sent in to treat about 62 women who had been victims of rape. It also said that one woman testified that Kibibi himself had raped her. Reported by the New Age, 21 February 2011, at http://www.thenewage.co.za/11013-1019-53-Congo_colonel_gets_20_years_after_r%20ape_trial

Shortage of food and medication in Kabinda prison: Radio Okapi reported that prisoners in Kabinda, Kasai-Oriental Province, have not had food or access to medication in over a month. The last government subsidy of US\$ 500 was received by prison authorities in December 2010, said Arthur Lubwika of Prison Fellowship International in DRC. Lubwika called for assistance from MONUSCO and for action by provincial authorities in order to address this situation. *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 3 February 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/societe/2011/02/03/kasai-oriental-penurie-de-nourriture-et-de-produits-pharmaceutiques-a-la-prison-de-kabinda/>

Ill treatment of prisoners in Kikwit Central Prison: Radio Okapi reported that certain prisoners in Kikwit Central Prison, Bandundu Province, beat and torture fellow prisoners, allegedly, upon the orders of a self-declared "leader of all prisoners." The prison director stated that the problem could be solved by transferring those convicted of serious crimes to high security penitentiary centres. However, such transfers are not taking place due to lack of funds. *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 7 February 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2011/02/07/kikwit-des-detenus-torturent-dautres-detenus-a-la-prison-urbaine/>

Prisons in Ngandajika and Kabinda in need of improvement: Radio Okapi reported that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the police and the corrections unit of MONUSCO conducted a joint evaluation of prisons in Ngandajika and Kabinda. The evaluation established that the Kabinda Prison has lost much of its roofing and the cells are overrun by plants. The Ngandajika Prison does not separate male prisoners from female ones, nor children from adults. There is also no space for prison administrative offices. Instead, the Prison Director keeps all files at his private home. It was also established that there is a shortage of food. *Original report in French.* Reported by Radio Okapi, 10 February 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2011/02/10/l%E2%80%99etat-des-prisons-de-ngandajika-et-kabinda-laisse-a-desirer/>

EGYPT

Rights group calls for investigation into prison violence: The Ma'an News Agency reported that Human Rights Watch has called for the Egyptian authorities to investigate allegations of violence during a prison break which occurred during the nationwide riots against the former Egyptian President Mubarak's regime. The report said that the claims of violence had been made by Palestinian prisoners, who alleged that the prison guards had used unnecessary lethal force. Reported by the Ma'an News Agency, 4 February 2011, at <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=356584>

Rights groups claim military abuses against prisoners: The Bellingham Herald reported that human rights groups have voiced concerns about what they call a pattern of prisoner abuse by the US-backed Egyptian military, which took control of the country after President Hosni Mubarak resigned on 11 February 2011. The report said that the concerns were voiced after it was learnt that Egyptian writer and poet, Ramy Salah, had been tortured in prison under the control of armed forces. The report also said at the point of his arrest, Salah was beaten and on the next day he was tied to a wall, stripped naked, whipped and subjected to electric shocks. Reported by the Bellingham Herald, 13 February 2011, at <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/02/13/1865245/as-egypts-army-vows-democracy.html#>

Prime Minister promises to release political prisoners: Reuters Africa reported that the Egyptian Prime Minister, Ahmed Shafiq, promised to release an estimated 222 political prisoners, which includes those detained during the uprising against former President Hosni Mubarak. The report said that there are claims that thousands of prisoners, some of whom could be classified as 'political prisoners,' were detained without charge under an emergency law. It also said that of the hundreds of people who disappeared during the uprising, many were being held by the authorities. Reported by Reuters Africa, 20 February 2011, at <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE71J02I20110220>

Prisoners shot by prison officers: The Los Angeles Times reported that Amnesty International and an Egyptian human rights group said that prison officers, stationed at various prisons in the country, had collectively killed an estimated 200 prisoners, 168 of which were shot at the Fayoum prison in January 2011. The report said the shootings occurred during the recent unrest in Egypt. Reported by David Zucchino, 27 February 2011, at <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-egypt-prisons-20110227,0,5740880.story> Also reported by Amnesty International, 21 February 2011, at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/guards-accused-scores-allegedly-shot-dead-egyptian-prison-2011-02-21>

GABON

Opposition supporters' trial delayed: News24 reported that a court in Gabon postponed the trial of 26 suspects charged with public order violations. The report said that the suspects, supporters of the country's opposition leader, Andre Mba Obame, were imprisoned between 27 January and 5 February 2011 after participating in a rally in support of Obame's claim to the Presidency. The trial was set down for 17 February 2011. Reported by News24, 2 February 2011, at

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Gabon-court-delays-opposition-trial-20110208>

Senior army official denies criminal charges: News24 reported that a general in Gabon's army has denied charges that he had planned a coup d'état against the son of the late President of Gabon, Ali Ondimba Bongo, who succeeded his father, Omar Ondimba Bongo in June 2009. The report said that Jean-Philippe Ntumpa Lebani, who has been in prison since September 2009, denied the charges saying that "all that is blamed on me, I do not acknowledge" and that he had "never incited a plot" or a "coup d'état." Reported by News24, 23 February 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Army-general-denies-plotting-Gabon-coup-20110222>

GUINEA

Guinea plans closure of certain detention facilities: Le Jour Guinée reported that the government of Guinea plans to close certain military garrisons being used as prisons. One such prison, which houses both military and civilian prisoners, is on the island of Kassa. A dozen officers linked to Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, arrested in March 2010, have not yet been formally charged or brought before a court. Another civilian detainee, Sékou Souapé Kourouma, former secretary general of the youth wing of RPG (Gathering of the People of Guinea), also detained on the island prison, has not been formally charged. *Original report in French.* Reported by Le Jour Guinée, 6 February 2011, at http://www.lejourguinee.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4595%3AAla-guinee-envisage-la-fermeture-des-lieux-de-detention-non-conventionnels&catid=19&Itemid=33&lang=fr

LIBERIA

Skills training in Monrovia Prison: The Daily Observer reported that an estimated 300 prisoners at the Monrovia Central Prison successfully completed an eight-month training program in various vocational skills. The report said that both male and female prisoners were taught various skills, including, tie-dyeing, graphic arts, tailoring and crocheting. It was also reported that a senior official at the prison had stated that inmates "are not brought to the prison for punishment as is widely perceived, but for rehabilitation, psycho-social counselling?" Reported by Victoria Gbalee Wesseh, 4 February 2011, the Daily Observer at <http://www.liberianobserver.com/node/10378>

LIBYA

Protesters jailed: Aljazeera reported that Libyan authorities had arrested anti-Gaddafi protesters, including 25 year old Rabie al-Messrati for posting and spreading protest messages on facebook. The report also noted that there was speculation that 110 prisoners linked to the outlawed Libyan Islamic Fighting Group were due to be released from the Abu Salim prison on 16 February 2011 in a move to quell tension. Reported by Aljazeera, 16 February 2011, at <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/africa/2011/02/20112167051422444.html#>

GUINEA

MADAGASCAR

Opposition supporters and leaders sentenced: IOL News reported that a court in Madagascar sentenced 21 people, including three opposition leaders, to a suspended imprisonment term of six to thirteen months for taking part in an illegal demonstration. The report said that the suspects were accused of gathering illegally, resisting police orders and destroying public property at a protest against President Andry Rajoelina. It also said that Fetison Rakoto Andrianirina, a former leader of a movement loyal to ex-President Marc Ravalomanana, had been one of the leaders sentenced. Reported by IOL News, 10 February 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/madagascar-sentences-opposition-leaders-1.1023958>

MOZAMBIQUE

Torture in Mozambican prisons: allAfrica.com reported that Mozambique Justice Minister, Benvinda Levi, had said that there were approximately 28 torture cases reported in Mozambique prisons between 2006 and 2009, countering the idea, he said, that torture in prisons was widespread. According to the report, Levi claimed that measures had been taken against officials involved in the abuse of prisoners. Reported by All Africa.com, 28 February 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201102281465.html>

NIGERIA

Government intervention to protect Nigerian prisoners in Libya: all Africa.com reported that a Nigerian rights group called upon the government to intervene in order to ensure the safe return of Nigerian prisoners being held in Libya. The report said that DestinyMakers Community Christian Campaign and Action Network (DCCCAN) stressed that the lives of many Nigerian prisoners in Libya were endangered. It also said that six Nigerian prisoners in Libya had recently died of hyperthermia. Reported by Sylvester Enoghase and Akinwunmi King, 31 January 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201102010312.html>

Free cancer test for prisoners: allAfrica.com reported that Nigerian authorities are planning to provide free testing benefits to an estimated 48 000 prisoners in the country. The report said that the Nigerian Minister of Health, Prof Christian Onyebuchi Chukwu, had said that the initiative falls within government's plan to provide health care services to all Nigerians. It also said that prostate cancer screening would be done by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the International Prison Chaplain Association of Nigeria. Reported by Ruby Leo, 8 February 2011, allAfrica.com at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201102090569.html>

RWANDA

Journalist gets sentenced to 17 years imprisonment: The New Age reported that a Rwandan court sentenced a journalist to seventeen years of imprisonment. The report said that Agnes Uwimana Nkusi, editor of the Umurabyo monthly, was sentenced after she had been found guilty of defamation, "causing divisions" and denying the 1994 genocide. The charges stemmed from various articles published in 2010 criticizing the country's traditional courts (known as gacaca) and Rwandan land reforms. Reported by The New Age, 4 February 2011, at http://www.thenewage.co.za/9694-1019-53-Rwandan_journalists_handed_heavy_jail_terms

SEYCHELLES

Somali pirates sentenced to 20 years imprisonment: Reuters Africa reported that a court in the Seychelles sentenced ten Somali nationals to 20 years imprisonment for hijacking a fishing vessel carrying seven Seychellois crew members in November 2009. The report said the island's Minister for Home Affairs, Environment and Transport had said that the "sentences will send a strong message to other pirates on the high seas and that [the country] has the capacity to capture, prosecute and jail criminals at sea who threaten key fisheries and tourism industries." Reported by Reuters Africa, 28 February 2011, at <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E71R0DM20110228>

SOMALIA

US court sentences pirate to nearly 34 years imprisonment: CNN News reported that a US Federal court sentenced a Somali pirate to nearly 34 years in prison after it found the man guilty of hijacking a US-flagged ship as it cruised past the horn of Africa in 2009. The report said that, Abduwali Abukhadir Muse and three other men had hijacked the ship and held its captain, Richard Philips, hostage for five days. It also said that Muse had also been sentenced for his involvement in hijacking two other vessels in early March 2009. Reported by CCN News, 16 February 2011, at <http://edition.cnn.com/2011/CRIME/02/16/new.york.pirate.sentencing/?hpt=T2#>

SUDAN

Demonstrators imprisoned and assaulted: Ahewar reported a press release by Sudan Democracy First Group documenting a wide range of abuses committed against anti-government protesters. The report said that demonstrators were imprisoned and assaulted by the country's security forces. It also said that some of the women had been raped, tortured and verbally abused during interrogations at a police Station in Khartoum. Reported by Ahewar, 23 February 2011, at <http://www.ahewar.org/eng/show.art.asp?aid=1252>

TUNISIA

Former President faces extradition: BBC News reported that the Tunisian authorities have formally requested the extradition of former President, Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, from Saudi Arabia. According to the report Ben Ali fled to Saudi Arabia on 14 January 2011 following the outbreak of severe protests against his 23-year rule. The report also said that the Tunisian government is seeking to try Ben Ali on charges linked to the deaths of protesters killed during uprisings against his regime. Reported by BBC News, 20 February 2011, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12520040>

Minister calls for respect for the integrity of prisoners: The Tunisia Online News reported that the interim government Justice Minister, Lazhar Karoui Chebbi, has requested the directors of all Tunisian prisons to comply with provisions governing prison life "taking into account the humanitarian dimension in treating inmates.". The report also stated that the Minister had requested that prison officials "avoid any conduct likely to harm the physical or moral integrity of prisoners." Reported by the Tunisia Online News, 1 February 2011, at <http://www.tunisiaonlinenews.com/justice-minister-issues-circular-letter-on-respect-of-detainees-physical-and-moral-integrity/>

Human Rights Watch calls for the ending of ban on prison visits: Human Rights Watch News reported that they have called for the interim government of Tunisia to end the fifteen-year ban on prison visits. According to the report, the request was made to the country's new Justice Minister, Lazhar Karoui Chebbi, after researchers for the organisation visited some of the most populated prisons in the country. Prior to President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali's ousting, Tunisia had 31 000 prisoners, the highest per capita prison population of any country in the Middle East and North Africa (barring Israel). The report also said that the new prime minister of the interim government has promised amnesty for political prisoners. Reported by Human Rights Watch, 4 February 2011, at <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/02/04/tunisia-prison-visit-ends-20-year-ban>

UGANDA

Suspected killer of homosexual activist imprisoned: BBC News reported that Ugandan police have imprisoned a man in connection with the killing of gay activist, David Kato. The report said that Enock Nsubuga is the second suspect being imprisoned in connection to the crime, but is considered to be the "main suspect" of the murder. Reported by BBC News, 2 February 2011, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12348950>

ZAMBIA

Zambian director imprisoned for theft: The Lusaka Times reported that Zambian Ink tech Managing Director, Mathew Mohan, was sentenced to two and a half years imprisonment for having obtained certain commercial goods fraudulently. Mohan, however, has another judgment pending against him on charges of murder. The sentencing magistrate, according to the report, took note of the fact that Mohan had been in custody for a long time "because of other matters he was facing in other courts." Reported by the Lusaka Times, 16 February 2011, at

<http://www.lusakatimes.com/2011/02/16/mathew-mohan-sentenced-years-imprisonment>

ZIMBABWE

International Committee of the Red Cross supports authorities' gradual takeover of responsibility:

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has reiterated its support of Zimbabwean authorities in gradually taking full responsibility for meeting the nutritional needs of 8000 inmates. The ICRC has been distributing food to Zimbabwean inmates since 2009. The report said that ICRC support is expected to continue until 2012. Reported by ICRC Rescue Centre, 15 February 2011, at <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2011/zimbabwe-news-2011-02-15.htm>

Alleged plotters detained: The Mail & Guardian Online reported that 46 people were brought before court in connection with allegations of treason and plotting an "Egyptian-style" uprising in Zimbabwe. The report stated that defence counsel for the accused had stated that some of his clients were tortured by police and that others were denied medication and access to legal representation. The 46 suspects deny any wrongdoing, stating that they were simply attending a lecture on North African anti-government protests. Reported Gillian Gatora, Mail & Guardian online, 25 February 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-02-24-alleged-zimbabwe-plotters-tortured-lawyers-say>

Four arrested by plain-clothed police officers: SW Radio Africa News reported that four members of Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) were arrested by plain-clothed Zimbabwean police officers on 28 February 2011. The arrests occurred amidst reports of widespread violence and looting being committed by ZANU PF war veterans and youth militia. Reported by Alex Bell, 28 February 2011, SW Radio Africa News at <http://www.swradioafrica.com/news280211/buhera280211.htm>

Prison authorities ignore court order: The Times Live reported that prison authorities in Zimbabwe have ignored a court order directing that twelve activist being held in connection with allegations of treason against President Mugabe be given medical treatment for torture-inflicted injuries. The report said that the accused were part of a larger group of 45 people who had gathered to watch a DVD of news clips of the unrest in Egypt. Reported by Times Lives, 1 March 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/article941252.ece/Zim-flouts-court-order>

Court orders alleged plotters to stay in prison: The Times Live reported that a Zimbabwean court held that 45 people facing charges of treason involving an Egyptian-style uprising against President Robert Mugabe, must be kept in prison until their hearing. The report said that the decision of the court was meant to give prosecutors time to prepare the case against the accused. Defence lawyers for the accused claimed that their clients had been tortured in police custody. Reported by Times live, 1 March 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/article942672.ece/Zimbabwe-court-keeps-alleged-plotters-in-jail>

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Fighting TB good option for governments: The Mangalorean.com reported that fighting tuberculosis, (TB) in prisons was a "smarter choice" for governments. The report said that if governments were, in the future, made to compensate for every prison death caused by avoidable diseases, the situation would lead to a financial crisis. The report cited a recent example from India in which the spouse of a deceased prisoner was awarded USD 6000 in compensation after it was found that he had died of TB infection. Reported by the Mangalorean.com, 26

February 2011, at <http://mangalorean.com/news.php?newstype=local&newsid=224581>

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