



# 30 Days Dae Izinsuku

Project of the Community  
Law Centre

CSPRI 30 Days/Dae/Izinsuku June 2011

CSPRI 30 Days/Dae/Izinsuku June  
2011

## In this Issue:

**GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION**

**PRISON CONDITIONS**

**PAROLE AND SENTENCING**

**UNSENTENCED PRISONERS**

**SECURITY AND ESCAPES**

**REHABILITATION**

**OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

## GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

[Top of Page](#)

**Warder sues Department of Correctional Services:** News24 reported that a prison warder who was raped by a former prisoner and his friend at her house in the Baviaanspoort prison complex is now suing her employer for damages. The legal suit follows the conviction of the former prisoner and his accomplice of rape, robbery and house breaking. Reported by News24, 27 June 2011, at <http://m.news24.com/news24/SouthAfrica/News/Raped-warder-sues-correctional-services-20110627>

**Prison official convicted of fraud:** News24 reported that a KwaZulu-Natal prison official, Vuleyise Vincent Ngcobo, was sentenced to eight years imprisonment for defrauding the government of R1.126m over five years. Ngcobo worked at Sevontein Prison, a farm prison that produces food for prisons, where he supervised prisoners' cash and claims to the department. Reported by News24.com, 28 June 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Corrupt-prison-official-gets-jail-time-20110628>

---

## PRISON CONDITIONS

[Top of Page](#)

**Conditions of detention criticized:** The Citizen reported that the conditions in which five Boeremag treason trial escapees were being held had become the focus of argument in the North Gauteng High Court when counsel for Mike du Toit, Herman van Rooyen, Tom Vorster and Rudi Gouws revealed they were being held in isolation and were forced to sleep in leg irons with the light on all the time. Reported by the Citizen, 1 June 2011, at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=198464&sn=Detail&pid=146866&Boeremag-accused-taken-to-hospital>

**Prisons in bad shape:** Money Web carried a story highlighting the poor state of the prison system by making reference to the fact that 48 000 awaiting-trial prisoners experience overcrowding. The story added that many of the remand prisoners "suffer inhumane living conditions, along with assaults or rapes perpetrated mostly by fellow inmates but sometimes also by prison warders." Reported by Anthea Jeffery, 23 June 2011, at <http://www.moneyweb.co.za/mw/view/mw/en/page292681?oid=545704&sn=2009+Detail>

---

## PAROLE AND SENTENCING

[Top of Page](#)

**Man gets life sentence for murder:** IOL reported that a man, Bennet Takalane Mungoni, was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing a police officer. In handing down the sentence the judge observed that "killing of police officers not only deprives their families of loved ones, but traumatises fellow SAPS members." Reported by Zelda Venter, 1 June 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/cop-killer-gets-life-sentence-1.1076697>

**Sentencing in drunk driving case queried:** The Mercury reported that the Supreme Court of Appeal had queried the six year prison sentence imposed on Petrus Jacobus Kriel, a farmer who killed two people in a car accident in 2004. The Supreme Court of Appeal referred the case back to the High Court, noting that the sentence was "too severe". Reported by the Mercury, 2 June 2011, at <http://themercury.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/showarticle.aspx?article=a9e5ee1a-9793-448d-b096-48ec19ac1a32&key=kpu0doWwXyt%2fCKtm3uOADQ%3d%3d&issue=64032011060200000000001001> (subscription needed)

**Mother may escape sentence of imprisonment:** The Mercury reported that a woman from Durban might escape a sentence of imprisonment following a decision by the Supreme Court of Appeal cautioning the judges handling the issue to consider the impact her incarceration would have on her six children. The woman was convicted of 34 counts of fraud in 2008. Reported by the Mercury, 6 June

2011, at  
<http://themercury.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/showarticle.aspx?article=c890a03d-9672-4caf-b357-98523b92c4ad&key=MgtY8%2fmhtsu%2b2Rmi059x5Q%3d%3d&issue=6403201106060000000001001>  
(subscription needed)

**Prison sentence reduced:** The Citizen reported that an "armed robber's" prison sentence was reduced from 15 to 5 years imprisonment because he had used a toy gun during a robbery. The presiding judges took into consideration the fact that the robbery was "not accompanied by any physical violence and none of the complainants were harmed." Reported by the Citizen, 18 June 2011, at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=203523&sn=Detail&pid=185563&Toy-gun--robber--has-jail-term-cut>

**Young inmates in the majority:** The Mercury reported that young people in their 20s make up more than 70% of the country's offenders. The report also said that 26% of young inmates are not visited by family during their stay in prison. Reported by Leila Samodien, 29 June 2011, at <http://www.themercury.co.za/rehab-inmate-changes-life-1.1090667>

---

## UNSENTENCED PRISONERS

[Top of Page](#)

**Privileges of Boeremag detainees revoked:** Buanews reported that the Department of Correctional Services had revoked the privileges of and tightened security around five Boeremag detainees who attempted to escape from court. The report said that some of the privileges which had been withdrawn included use of laptops, televisions and reclassifying them as high security risk prisoners. Reported by Buanews, 3 June 2011, at <http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/11/11060310051001>

**Courts urged to deny bail to rape accused:** Times Live reported that the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities had appealed to courts across the country to deny bail to suspects charged with the rape and murder of women and children. The report quotes Minister Lulu Xingwana, saying, "Rapists and perpetrators of violence against women and children have no place in our society. Hence we are calling upon our courts to deny bail for suspects charged with rape and murder of women and children." Reported by Times Live, 4 June 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/article1106244.ece/Deny-rape-and-murder-suspects-bail--Xingwana>

**Video link to reduce backlog:** The Cape Times reported that the Department of Justice and

Constitutional Development had introduced an "Audio Visual Remand" system which will dramatically lessen the backlog in Cape Town's courts. The technology allows awaiting trial detainees to attend court proceedings without being physically present in court. Reported by Jade Witten, 7 June 2011, at <http://www.capetimes.co.za/video-link-plan-to-reduce-case-backlog-1.1080005> (subscription needed)

**Boeremag accused no longer in leg irons:** Mail and Guardian online reported that the North Gauteng High Court ordered that four of the Boeremag treason-trial accused may no longer be held in leg irons overnight. The court also ordered that Correctional Services must immediately return their laptop computers to them. Reported by Mail and Guardian Online, 13 June 2011 at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-06-13-govt-told-to-remove-boeremag-accuseds-nighttime-leg-irons/>

**Remand detainees to benefit from programme:** Business Day reported that awaiting trial detainees who could have been released on bail of R1000 or less but could not afford to pay may soon find themselves out of prison, thanks to a programme aimed at reducing the huge backlog in remand detainees. The programme, which includes invoking the bail for habitual offenders and use of local language in court, is part of a wider package of reforms targeting the criminal justice system. Reported by Ernest Mabuza, 17 June 2011, at <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=146027>

**Number of children in remand detention drops:** Eyewitness News reported that the number of children awaiting trial in prison in South Africa dropped from 500 in April 2010 to 298 by December 2010. The statistics are contained in a progress report made to Parliament on the implementation of the Child Justice Act. Reported by Catherine Rice, 21 June 2011, at <http://www.ewn.co.za/Story.aspx?Id=68596>

**Magistrates lack information when granting bail:** Eyewitness News reported that Deputy Justice Minister Andries Nel described as a "major problem" the fact that crimes are being committed by suspects who are already out on bail. He is quoted as having said that "magistrates hearing the cases of people who have been arrested for a crime while already out on bail are not made aware of the fact." The Deputy Minister stressed the need for better communication and coordination among government departments. Reported by Eyewitness News, 29 June 2011, at <http://www.eyewitnessnews.co.za/Story.aspx?Id=69171>

**Bail not an easy matter:** IOL reported on comments made by Judge President Bernard Ngoepe regarding bail decisions in the lower courts. He reportedly said that judges were "doing their best under the circumstances when deciding on bail for repeat offenders." Of late, concerns around bail have been

raised following the revelation that some offenders commit crime while they are out on bail. Reported by IOL News, 30 June 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/bail-not-an-easy-matter-1.1091385>

---

## SECURITY AND ESCAPES

[Top of Page](#)

**Tag and release programme considered:** The Mail and Guardian reported that the Department of Correctional Services is considering electronically tagging some inmates to reduce the prison population. The report quotes the Department's National Commissioner, Tom Moyane, as saying, "By the end of the year we will present a programme to give us a pilot on how it [electronic tagging] can be used in our conditions." Reported by the Mail and Guardian, 23 June 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-06-23-etagging-of-prison-inmates-being-considered/>

**Nicro cautious about e-tagging:** Eye Witness News quotes the National Institute for Crime Prevention (Nicro), saying that although e-tagging is effective for tracking purposes, behaviour intervention programmes should be the priority. Nicro made reference in the report to research findings which confirm that "electronic surveillances have no effect on re-offending rate. Reported by Catherine Rice, 23 June 2011, at <http://www.eyewitnessnews.co.za/Story.aspx?Id=68790>

---

## REHABILITATION

[Top of Page](#)

**Search for substitutes to prison time:** IOL reported that the Department of Correctional Services is looking at alternative punishments to time served in prison in an attempt to ease overcrowding. It further alluded to current attempts to expedite case processing in order to reduce the number of remand detainees. The number of remand detainees waiting to be sentenced is reportedly 40 000. Reported by Mogomotsi Magome, 24 June 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/search-for-substitutes-to-jail-time-1.1088155>

**Good behaviour pays for prisoner:** The Mercury reported that "well behaved" prisoner, Clynton Cotton, initially sentenced to ten years imprisonment was released after serving three years of his sentence. The Department of Correctional Services is quoted in the report saying that "Cotton was rehabilitated and there was no need for him to be kept in prison". Reported by Mercury, 30 June 2011, at <http://themercury.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/showarticle.aspx?article=6f99c707-4ab3-477b-a90b->

---

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

[Top of Page](#)

ANGOLA

**Conditions of prisons improving:** Allafrika.com reported that the Deputy Minister of Prisons and Fire Services, Bamoquina Zau, conveyed the commitment of the authorities to improving prison conditions. The Minister reportedly made these remarks on the occasion of the 38th Basic Course on Prison Techniques attended by 132 prison officers in Luanda. Reported by Allafrika.com, 1 June 2011, at <http://allafrika.com/stories/201106020283.html>

**Construction of new military prison:** Allafrika.com reported that the Angolan armed forces Attorney-General, General Hélder Fernando Pita Grózm, announced the construction of the first military prison in Ombadja, southern Cunene Province. Funding arrangements and other logistics were being put in place to ensure that construction progressed according to schedule. Reported by Allafrika.com, 2 June 2011, at <http://allafrika.com/stories/201106020674.html>

**Prisoners informed of rights:** Allafrika.com reported that the Secretary of State for Human Rights, Bento Bembe, explained to prisoners in the City of Malanje that they have the right to food, water, medical assistance and a lawyer to defend their cases whilst in prison. The Secretary also reportedly underscored government's commitment to the application of international laws to prisoner's rights. Reported by Allafrika.com, 23 June 2011, at <http://allafrika.com/stories/201106230243.html>

**Rehabilitation centre under construction:** Allafrika.com reported that the Minister of Interior, Sebastião Martins, announced that the construction of a rehabilitation centre for children sentenced to terms of imprisonment was underway in Waco Kungo locality. The aim of the project is to rehabilitate children and turn them into responsible citizens. Reported by Allafrika.com, 23 June 2011, at <http://allafrika.com/stories/201106230837.html>

CAMEROON

**Poor portions for the poor at Mbanga Prison:** Jade Cameroun reported on poor nutrition provided in

Mbanga Prison, close to Douala. The report describes how prisoners who can afford to do so, are allowed to buy food from outside the prison and cook on the premises for own consumption or for sale. Those who cannot afford to buy additional food, however, receive only one small meal a day. Original report in French. Reported by Charles Nforgan, Jade Cameroun, 3 June 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=183>

**Arbitrary arrest and ill treatment by Cameroonian police:** Jade Cameroun reported on the arbitrary arrest and torture of a Guinean citizen in Cameroon that took place in December 2010. Salomon Mbu was arrested, held overnight and seriously beaten up in the night following a disagreement with an off duty police official. When brought before a judge, he was immediately released. Original report in French. Reported by Charles Nforgan, Jade Cameroun, 3 June 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=184>

**Prisons where a cell is a privilege:** Jade Cameroun reported that the level of overcrowding in the prisons of Douala and Mbanga is such that inmates must pay a fee to have access to a cell, or sleep outside, despite the rain and mosquitoes. For those having the "privilege" of staying in a cell, the conditions of detention do not live up to international standards either. Although State officials recognise this, they also claim that insufficient state funds and slow judicial proceedings do not allow them to improve the conditions of detention. Original report in French. Reported by Blaise Djoukep and Charles Nforgan, Jade Cameroun, 17 June 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=185>

**Poor conditions in Yaoundé prison:** Jade Cameroun reported that those living nearby the central prison of Yaoundé live in a constant fear of being targeted by prison guards shooting at escapees, or being forced to hide escapees. Original report in French. Reported by François Xavier Eya, Jade Cameroun, 17 June 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=187>

**"Freedom is the principle and custody is the exception":** Jade Cameroun published an interview with Attorney Antoine Pangué explaining Cameroonian legislation in relation to remand detention. He explained that both suspects and witnesses can be held in custody for the purposes of an investigation. This detention can last for a maximum of 48 hours, which can be extended once by criminal investigation officials, and then twice by the State Attorney. He also explained who exactly among police officials is legally entitled to proceed to an arrest. Finally, details are given on how to appeal a custodial decision. Original report in French. Reported by Christian Locka, Jade Cameroun, 17 June 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=188>

**Infringement of rights of suspects:** Jade Cameroun reported that citizens have been arrested and detained without a motive for extensive periods of time, and only released after paying bribes to detaining officers. Furthermore, judges have based judgments on false or erroneous police statements. This situation has been reported by the National Commission on Human Rights and Liberties, as well as by Transparency International Cameroon. With the help of civil society organisations, some victims have started filing complaints and some state officials have been sanctioned accordingly. Original report in French. Reported by Charles Nfongang, Jade Cameroun, 22 June 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=189>

**Prolonged detention for alleged killers:** Jade Cameroun reported on a case of the three year remand detention of three individuals suspected of killing the head of the Batcham tribe, despite the legal limit set at a year and a half. Their numerous appeals against the judicial decision to keep them in custody have been rejected. Original report in French. Reported by Guy Modeste Dzudie, Jade Cameroun, 29 June 2011, at <http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=190>

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**Inspector charged with torture and murder:** Radio Okapi reported that an inspector of the Military Prosecution Department of Tshela was arrested on 6 June 2011, according to local civil society groups. Human rights NGOs of Tshela had put pressure on authorities to investigate allegations against this inspector ordering the arrest, torture and killing of a naval officer from Boma who was accused of drug trafficking. The news of the arrest, however, has not been confirmed by local authorities. Original report in French. Reported by Radio Okapi, 8 June 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/en-bref/2011/06/08/tshela-torture-et-meutre-un-inspecteur-de-lauditorat-militaire-ecroue/#more-94442>

**Student in Molayi prison not allowed to take final exam:** Radio Okapi reported that a secondary school final year student who is detained at the Matadi Central Prison, could not participate in the final state exams. The Provincial Minister of Justice had authorised his temporary release for the duration of the exam. However, the Prison Director had refused to let the student go. Original report in French. Reported by Radio Okapi, 23 June 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/regions/bas-congo/2011/06/23/matadi-le-finaliste-detenu-a-la-prison-du-camp-molayi-n%E2%80%99a-plus-participe-a-1%E2%80%99examen-d%E2%80%99etat/#more-95403>



**Police officers sentenced to death:** The BBC reported that a military court in the Democratic Republic of Congo sentenced to death four policemen for killing a prominent human rights activist. The report said that Floribert Chebeya, head of the Congolese charity Voice of the Voiceless, was found murdered in June 2010. One of those sentenced to death is Col Daniel Mukalay, the former chief of police intelligence. Three of the accused were convicted in their absence as they are still on the run. Reported by the BBC, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13895771>

## EGYPT

**Former minister imprisoned:** Africareview.com reported that former Egyptian Minister, Youssef Boutros-Ghali, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for squandering public funds and abuse of power. The report added that he was also expected to pay a fine of approximately US\$11 million. Reported by Dalia Abdel, 5 June 2011, at <http://www.africareview.com/News/-/979180/1175214/-/hnduxrz/-/>

**Egypt to investigate torture claims:** News24 reported that Egypt's public prosecutor had set up a panel of judges to look into claims of police torture before and after a popular revolt that ousted president Hosni Mubarak. Reported by News24, 21 June 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Egypt-to-investigate-torture-claims-20110621>

## ETHIOPIA

**Death sentences commuted:** Voanews.com reported that Ethiopia had commuted the death sentences of twenty three people convicted of genocide for their part in the "Red Terror" purges during the rule of former dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam. The report said that those spared the death penalty included high profile public servants such as former vice-president Fisseha Desta and former prime minister Fikreselassie Wogderes. Reported by Peter Heinlein, 1 June 2011, at <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Ethiopia-Commutes-Death-Sentences-for-Mengistu-Officials-122960723.html>

## GABON

**Investigation into death of three illegal immigrants in custody:** Jeune Afrique reported that an investigation has been opened regarding the death of three illegal immigrants. The Ministry of Defense also announced an investigation into the general conditions in which about 20 illegal immigrants are being held in Bitam, following complaints that they are locked up day and night without access to toilets, light and fresh air. Three military police officers have been suspended. Original report in French. Reported by Jeune Afrique, 27 June 2011, at <http://www.jeuneafrique.com/Article/ARTJAWEB20110627113923/>

## **GAMBIA**

**Prison Fellowship launches a new project:** AllAfrica.com reported that The Gambia recently launched a new project called "Street Cleaning and Garbage Collection" with the assistance of Prison Fellowship, an international organisation dealing with the "restoration and rehabilitation of prisoners and ex-prisoners." The project seeks to engage ex-prisoners, their families, and interested members of the community in a street cleaning and garbage collection project. Reported by Momodou Jawo, 8 June 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201106090618.html>

## **GHANA**

**More Ghanaians in UK prisons:** Ghanaweb.com reported that investigations in London have revealed that Ghana ranks very high on the number of its citizens in British prisons among other African countries. The report added that out of the 43 African countries whose citizens have been imprisoned in the United Kingdom, Ghana has the fifth most citizens in prison. Reported by Ghanaweb.com, 8 June 2011, at <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=210583>

## **KENYA**

**Prison grows unique tomato to fight hunger:** Businessdailyafrica.com reported that a Kiambu Prison farm in Kenya has succeeded in growing tomatoes and potatoes on the same stem through grafting. This will reportedly save on input costs and maximises the use of small land parcels in densely populated areas. The project is said to have commenced on a trial basis two years ago. Reported by Businessdailyafrica.com, 6 June 2011, at <http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Corporate+News/>

/539550/1175460/-/rp41cf/-/

**Kenya accepts private prisons as an option after study tour:** Businessdailyafrica.com reported that prison officers are supportive of the idea of privately run prisons in Kenya after they were shown similar facilities in South Africa and the United Kingdom. The report added that the officers who took part in the learning tour were convinced that private prisons would decongest prisons following the failure of the government to invest in new infrastructure. Reported by Businessdailyafrica.com, 7 June 2011, at <http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Corporate+News/-/539550/1176096/-/rp4mll/-/>

**Death penalty questioned:** AllAfrica.com reported that a judge questioned the legality of the death sentence in Kenya during the sentencing hearing of a 24-year-old man convicted of killing three members of a family during election clashes in Molo district. The report quotes Judge Anyara Emukule saying that the death penalty was inconsistent with the right to life provision in the constitution of Kenya. The Judge handed down a sentence of 30 years imprisonment instead of the death penalty. Reported by AllAfrica.com, 17 June 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201106170183.html>

## **MALI**

**Prison population grows:** Afrique en ligne reported that Mali's prison population has multiplied tenfold over the last 50 years, reaching more than 5000 inmates in 2011. The report quotes the Minister of Justice, Maharafa Traore, referring to various challenges in the criminal justice system, such as inadequate budgetary allocations to detention centres and a poor level of rehabilitation amongst prisoners. Reported by Afriquejet, 11 June 2011, at <http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/mali's-prisoner-population-grew-tenfold-over-50-years-2011060113855.html>

## **MAURITANIA**

**Condition of prisons condemned:** Afrique en ligne reported that two politicians from Mauritania expressed deep concern regarding the poor conditions within the country's prisons. The politicians reportedly singled out Nouakchott's Main Prison, stating that there was "overcrowding, bad sanitary

conditions, lack of food, lack of clean water, medical care, and prison staff." They also expressed concern regarding the arbitrary detention and torture of prisoners". Reported by Afriquetjet.com, 1 June 2011, at <http://www.afriquetjet.com/news/africa-news/mauritania:-opposition-mps-challenge-mauritanian-govt.-on-prison-situation-2011060113853.html>

## MOZAMBIQUE

**Government to reduce prison costs:** AllAfrica.com reported that the government hoped to reduce the cost of running prisons by at least 30% in the next four years. The report added that the government intended to achieve the reduction through the efficient management of prisons, reducing the number of inmates, increasing collaboration with other government departments and prison food growing projects. Reported by AllAfrica.com, 3 June 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201106040081.html>

**Alternatives to prison would reduce overcrowding:** AllAfrica.com reported that the introduction of alternative penalties to imprisonment was a way forward in reducing overcrowding in prisons. The report is based on data presented at a meeting of the National Coordinating Council of the National Prisons Services which revealed that fifty percent of the inmates serving sentences in Mozambique were found guilty of crimes that carry a prison sentence of less than two years. Reported by AllAfrica.com, 4 June 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201106040003.html>

**Prison to be dismantled:** AllAfrica.com reported that the Maputo Civil Prison, which stands on Kim il Sung Avenue in the heart of the city, is to be removed, as its infrastructure has deteriorated. The report quotes the director of the National Prisons Service, Eduardo Mussanhane, saying that "the prison would not be dismantled until new premises have been built to accommodate current inmates". Reported by AllAfrica.com, 14 June 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201106142098.html>

**Agricultural production in prisons:** Macauhub reported that prisoners at the Mabalane Prison had produced 70 tons of rice in the current agricultural season. The prison reportedly intends expanding its production area to 300 hectares. The report also quotes officials saying that the aim of agricultural production was to reduce the prison's dependence on the fiscus and to provide inmates with skills. Reported by Macauhub.com, 15 June 2011, at <http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/2011/06/15/prisoners-at-mabalane-penitentiary-in-mozambique-produce-70-tons-of-rice/>

**Prison for juvenile offenders inaugurated:** AllAfrica.com reported that Mozambican Justice Minister

Benvinda Levy inaugurated a Juvenile Recovery Prison Centre in Boane. The prison, built at a cost of US \$483 000 is currently home to 142 inmates aged between 16 and 21 serving various prison sentences. The Minister said that the purpose of the centre was not to punish but rehabilitate the young people. Reported by AllAfrica.com, 22 June 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201106221292.html>

**Separation between children and adults:** StarAfrica.com carried a report in which it said that Mozambique will begin housing minors in separate prisons from adults in order to protect them from sexual abuse. The report also said that most children are locked up on charges of petty theft and that children between 16 and 21 make up 35% of the country's 16 000 inmates. Reported by StarAfrica.com, 24 June 2011, at <http://www.starAfrica.com/en/news/detail-news/article/mozambique-separates-minors-from-adult-p-173702.html>

## **NIGERIA**

**Poor Correctional Services criticised:** This Day Live carried a piece titled Agenda for Jonathan (IV): Reform Criminal Justice System, in which Olawale Fapohunda, secretary-general of the West African Bar Association, criticises the former government regimes in Nigeria for the poor state of the country's criminal justice system, its prisons in particular. The article also states that government ignorance was responsible for "a regrettable neglect of the prisons service resulting in inadequate financial allocations and a dangerous inattention to the security risk posed by the more than 27,000 remand persons in our prisons nationwide many of whom have become hardened by the endless wait for justice". Reported by Olawale Fapohunda, 7 June 2011, at <http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/agenda-for-jonathan-vi-reform-criminal-justice-system/92773/>

**Seven awaiting trial prisoners regain freedom:** Africanseer.com reported that Chief Judge of Anambara, Justice Paul Obidigwe, released seven inmates and granted bail to 16 others during a visit to Akwa prison. The action to release was part of the wider activities the Chief Judge was undertaking ahead of his retirement on 30 June 2011. Reported by Africanseer.com, 28 June 2011, at <http://news.africanseer.com/african-news/nigeria/135852-seven-awaiting-trial-inmates-regain-freedom.html>

**Prisons should do more to assist inmates:** The Nigerian Tribune reported that State Governor, Chief Godswill Akpabio, appealed to the Nigerian Prisons Service to make the country's prisons more reformatory than punitive. He also called on the Federal Government to improve the standard of prisons across the country and recommended that the United Nations standard be adopted as the standard model for prisons in Nigeria. Reported by the Tribune, 22 June 2011, at

<http://tribune.com.ng/index.php/news/23893-prisons-should-be-more-of-reformative-centres-akpabio>

## RWANDA

**Inmates request more visitation days:** AllAfrica.com reported that inmates at Rusizi Prison had requested more visitation days. The requests were reportedly made during a visit by the Minister for Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Harerimana, who was on a nationwide inspection of prisons. Reported by Lillian Nakayima, 1 June 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201106010186.html>

**Bill aimed at sentencing reform:** The Independent reported that a bill currently under consideration in parliament would see inmates spend half their prison sentences performing community services outside prisons. The report quotes the Minister of Justice saying that "Prisons should be the last resort and not the primary destination of the citizens of this country." The report said that Rwanda has the highest population of inmates in East Africa at 60 000. Reported by Magnus Mazipaka, 2 June 2011, at <http://www.independent.co.ug/News/regional-news/4240-getting-out-earlier>

## SIERRA LEONE

**Kabala prison on the brink of collapse:** AllAfrica.com reported that Kabala prison is now run down to the extent that the objective of rehabilitating inmates may soon be lost. The degeneration is said to be evidenced through appalling accommodation, lack of suitable vehicles for transporting prisoners and insufficient medical stocks. The report quotes a prison officer, Sayoh Koroma, saying that authorities in Freetown are not showing urgency in resolving the challenges which the prison faces. Reported by Rachel Horner, 20 June 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201106201993.html>

## SUDAN

**Prisoners given medical aid:** UN.org reported that a medical team from the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Sudan provided treatment to more than 140 inmates and prison staff in the main prison in Malakal during a one-day medical camp in the facility. The report added that the UN body managed to "check and treat prisoners, death-row inmates, women, and insane persons." Reported by UN.org, 16 June 2011, at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38748&Cr=Sudan&Cr1=>

## TUNISIA

**35 year imprisonment:** The BBC reported that a Tunisian court had sentenced former President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali and his wife Leila to 35 years in prison for embezzlement and misusing public funds. Reported by BBC News, 20 June 2011, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13850227>

## UGANDA

**Inmates appeal for custodial sentence:** AllAfrica.com reported that Luzira Upper Prison inmates on death row have asked the Government to abolish the death penalty and replace it with custodial sentences in order to give them a chance to reform. Their appeal follows the decision of the Supreme Court of Uganda refusing to outlaw the death penalty. There are 418 inmates on death row in Uganda. Reported by Petride Mudoola, 4 June 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201106060116.html>

**Ugandan government sued:** The Monitor reported that the government of Uganda has been sued by Kenyan rights activists outraged at the continued detention of bomb blast suspect Al-Amin Kimathi. The suspect is one of seventeen suspects accused of detonating a bomb killing Ugandans watching a soccer match. Reported by Emphraim Kasozi, 20 June 2011, at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1185432/-/c09bdfz/-/index.html>

## ZAMBIA

**President Banda pardons prisoners:** The Daily Mail reported that President Banda had commuted the death sentences of 16 inmates to life imprisonment. The report also said that another 16 inmates had had their death sentences and life sentences commuted to sentences of varying periods in prison while four had been discharged from prison. Reported by Angela Chishamba, 7 June 2011, at <http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/media/news/viewnews.cgi?category=8&id=1307402613>

## ZIMBABWE

**MDC-T complain of poor treatment in prison:** The Herald reported that eight more MDC-T activists picked up by the police following the murder of a police officer have allegedly complained of

inhumane treatment while in police detention. The report said that the detainees were held under inhuman conditions, beaten and sometimes denied food. Reported by the Herald, 6 June 2011, at [http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=11977:8-more-mdc-t-activists-in-court&catid=46:crime-a-courts&Itemid=138](http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11977:8-more-mdc-t-activists-in-court&catid=46:crime-a-courts&Itemid=138) Also reported at <http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/human-rights/50279/travesty-of-justice.html>

**Alleged coup plotters released from remand detention:** The Daily News reported that Emmanuel Marara, freed from remand prison for allegedly plotting to remove President Robert Mugabe from power by staging a coup, reportedly said that he was warned by one of his torturers that he would spend a "very long" time in jail for refusing to implicate some senior army officers he did not know. The report added that the former remand prisoner, together with six others, spent four years in remand prison without trial for refusing to implicate innocent people. Reported by Reagan Mashavave, 5 June 2011, at <http://www.dailynews.co.zw/index.php/features/49-featured/2791-coup-plotters-tell-horror-stories.html>

**20 year imprisonment for teenager:** The Herald reported that a teenager who robbed five men of their vehicles and other valuables using a toy gun, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. The teenager, Tafadzwa Humire, was convicted on his own plea of guilty to five counts of armed robbery when he appeared before regional magistrate. Reported by The Herald, 16 June 2011, at [http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=12751:teenager-jailed-20-years&catid=46:crime-a-courts&Itemid=138](http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12751:teenager-jailed-20-years&catid=46:crime-a-courts&Itemid=138)

**Activists face 20 years in prison:** Amnesty International released a statement in which it appealed to authorities in Zimbabwe to immediately drop charges against six men who were arrested earlier this year for attending and organising a lecture about the North Africa protests. The statement said that the men, who have been charged with 'attempting to subvert a constitutionally elected government' will stand trial on Monday 18 July 2011. If found guilty the six activists could be sentenced to 20 years in prison. Reported by Amnesty International, 17 June 2011, at [http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news\\_details.asp?NewsID=19520](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news_details.asp?NewsID=19520)

**Brothers spared death sentence:** News Day reported that two brothers were sentenced to 10 and 12 years imprisonment respectively for murdering a 53-year-old woman over alleged witchcraft. Reported by Obey Manayiti, 23 June 2011, at <http://www.newsday.co.zw/article/2011-06-23-brothers-spared-death-after-killing-confessed-witch>

**Death row prisoners unable to appeal:** New Zimbabwe.com reported that as many as twenty Bulawayo death row prisoners have been unable to exercise their right to appeal since 2005 because the courts have a shortage of transcribers. The report quoted Charles Nyatanga, the Registrar of the High Court, saying that the situation had reached a "crisis" level. Reported by New Zimbabwe.com, 25 June 2011, at <http://www.newzimbabwe.com/news-5425-Byo+death+row+inmates+denied+appeals/news.aspx>

**Policemen in prison for assault:** The Herald reported that two policemen were handed one year prison sentence each for assaulting and seriously injuring a security guard they accused of stealing two batteries. The law enforcement agencies were arrested when evidence was produced implicating them. Reported by the Herald, 25 June 2011, at



[http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=13559:2-cops-jailed-for-theft&catid=46:crime-a-courts&Itemid=138](http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13559:2-cops-jailed-for-theft&catid=46:crime-a-courts&Itemid=138)

**HIV and AIDS a problem amongst prison population:** News Day reported that government denial of homosexual activities amongst inmates is making it difficult to combat the spread of HIV and Aids within the country's prisons. The report said that a lack of condoms, appropriate diet, counseling and other logistics was worsening the spread of HIV and AIDS among prisoners. Reported by Richard Muponde, 26 June 2011, at <http://www.newsday.co.zw/article/2011-06-26-govt-denial-of-sex-in-prison-kills-inmates-official>

**Democratic Alliance slams detention of Timba:** The South African Democratic Alliance criticized the conditions under which Zimbabwe Minister Jameson Timba was kept while in detention. It is alleged that during his detention he was denied food and access to his lawyers. Reported by Nehandaradio.com, 27 June 2011, at <http://nehandaradio.com/2011/06/27/sa-opposition-slam-arrest-of-timba/>

**Journalists arrested:** The Mail and Guardian reported that the editor of the Standard newspaper, Nevanji Madanhire, and reporter, Patience Nyangove were arrested after a weekend report on the arrest of Jameson Timba, a Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) Cabinet minister. The arrest may also relate to a report in which the paper said a senior police officer, Crispen Makedenge, was involved in last Friday's arrest of Minister Jameson Timba, and linked Makedenge to allegations of human rights abuses. Reported by Jason Moyo, 29 June 2011, at <http://mg.co.za/article/2011-06-29-editor-of-independent-zimbabwe-newspaper-arrested>

## **OTHER**

**Needs of women in detention not studied:** The 7th space reported that the healthcare needs and general experience of women in detention in sub-Saharan Africa are rarely studied and poorly understood. Katherine Todrys and Joseph Amon summarize research done by BMC International Health and Human Rights 2011 on the health needs of women inmates in Zambia. The research concludes that there is an urgent need for general prison health campaign targeting female inmates on issues such as HIV, tuberculosis testing and treatment. The story also refers to abuses against women in Zambian police and prison custody. Reported by Katherine Todrys and Joseph Amon, 22 June 2011, at [http://7thspace.com/headlines/386964/health\\_and\\_human\\_rights\\_of\\_women\\_imprisoned\\_in\\_zambia.html](http://7thspace.com/headlines/386964/health_and_human_rights_of_women_imprisoned_in_zambia.html)

---

## Fair use notice

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

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

Tel: (+27) 021-9592950

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



[Subscribe Me](#) [Unsubscribe Me](#) [Change My Details](#) [Visit our website](#)

[Invite a Friend](#) [Terms and Conditions & Privacy](#) and [Anti-Spam Policy for subscribers](#)

Please report abuse to [abuse@easimail.co.za](mailto:abuse@easimail.co.za)

© Easimail 2011. All Rights Reserved.