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## GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

**Three officials suspended:** The Citizen reported that three prison officials at the Johannesburg Central Prison were suspended following the negligent release of a remand detainee facing 128 charges. The detainee was reportedly re-arrested a week later. Reported by the Citizen, 13 March 2012, at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=264975&sn=Detail&pid=146826&Three-suspended-for-prisoner-s-release>

**Parole board suspended:** News 24 reported that the Zonderwater Prison Correctional Supervision and Parole Board had been suspended in connection with the reportedly erroneous recommendation to convert the custodial sentences of convicted murderers to correctional supervision. Twelve year sentences had been imposed on the offenders but were converted to correctional supervision after only a two year period. Reported by News 24, 13 March 2012, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Waterkloof-2-parole-board-suspended-20120313>

**Democratic Alliance welcomes suspension of officials:** Politics Web reported that the Democratic Alliance had issued a statement welcoming the action taken by the Department of Correctional Services to suspend members of the Zonderwater Parole Board who allegedly erroneously recommended that the custodial sentences of two prisoners serving twelve year sentences for murder should be converted to correctional supervision. Reported by Politics Web, 14 March 2012, at <http://www.politicsweb.co.za/politicsweb/view/politicsweb/en/page72308?oid=286111&sn=Marketingwebdetail&pid=90389>

**Dismissal held to be unfair:** IOL reported that the Labour Court overturned the dismissal of prison officials, initially dismissed by the Department of Correctional Services for failing to remove their dreadlocks, on the basis that the decision had been unfairly discriminatory. Reported by Tony Healy, 22 March 2012, at <http://www.iol.co.za/dreadlocks-dismissals-are-ruled-unfair-1.1261464>

## REHABILITATION

**Television channel specifically for prisons:** IOL reported that prisoners could soon have their own television channel which focuses on rehabilitation rather than entertainment. Negotiations regarding the roll-out of this special station are reportedly underway between the Department of Correctional Services and a local non-governmental organisation, the Prison Broadcasting Network. Reported by Natasha Prince, 5 March 2012, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/tv-station-for-prison-inmates-considered-1.1249070>

**Prisoners play chess:** The New Age reported that prisoners at Boksburg prison are playing chess to help them achieve "peace of mind." The report added that they are working hard to be admitted to the Gauteng South Chess Association. Reported by the New Age, 22 March 2012, at <http://www.thenewage.co.za/46965-1007-53-Gauteng-prisoners-take-to-chess-for-peace-of-mind>

**Rehabilitation initiatives:** Bizcommunity.com reported that Sun City Casino donated a brick-making machine to parolees in order to assist them in developing skills necessary for their reintegration into society. Reported by bizcommunity.com, 23 March 2012, at <http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/562/72781.html>

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## ESCAPES

**Remand detainees re-arrested:** The Zimdiaspora reported that Bongani Moyo and two other remand detainees attempted to escape from Pretoria Central Prison on 14 March 2012 but were recaptured soon after they were spotted descending the prison wall by a pedestrian. Reported by The Zimdiaspora, 14 March 2012, at [http://www.zimdiaspora.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7998:dangerous-zimbabwean-criminal-attempts-to-break-out-of-pretoria-prison&catid=38:travel-tips&Itemid=18http](http://www.zimdiaspora.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7998:dangerous-zimbabwean-criminal-attempts-to-break-out-of-pretoria-prison&catid=38:travel-tips&Itemid=18http)

**Rights of detainees violated:** City Press reported that the Minister of Correctional Services is said to have violated the Correctional Services Act when she paraded re-arrested escapees before a press conference in an “inhumane” manner and without their consent. Reported by Zinhle Mapumulo, 17 March 2012, at <http://www.citypress.co.za/SouthAfrica/News/Will-paraded-prisoner-sue-20120317-2>

## PRISON CONDITIONS

**Prisoner sues government:** IOL reported that Bradley McCallum, a former prisoner at Port Elizabeth’s St Alban’s prison, is suing the Minister of Correctional Services for the rape that he suffered at the hands of prison officials. McCallum is reportedly one of 230 prisoners suing the Minister in connection with an incident involving the “mass assault” by prison officials. Reported by IOL, 3 March 2012, at <http://www.iol.co.za/saturday-star/raped-inmate-sues-prison-service-1.1247938>

**Department agrees to pay damages:** The Dispatch reported that the Department of Correctional Services agreed to pay damages to two long-term prisoners who were assaulted by prison officials during an alleged hostage situation in a Port Elizabeth prison in 2010. Reported by The Dispatch, 14 March 2012, at <http://dispatch.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/showarticle.aspx?article=487f52a6-9e4a-4240-b322-6200833e7d3c&key=Jb6Qlv%2fiqBJFKYtkeyq3ww%3d%3d&issue=8148201203020000000001001> (subscription needed)

**Parliamentary committee expresses concern:** The New Age reported that the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services expressed concern over the number of “unnatural” deaths in prison and the transfer of prisoners who give evidence against corrupt officials. Reported by Siyabonga Mkwana, 20 March 2012, at [http://www.thenewage.co.za/46654-1007-53-Alarm\\_over\\_jail\\_conditions](http://www.thenewage.co.za/46654-1007-53-Alarm_over_jail_conditions)

**Prisoner sets himself on fire:** Eye Witness News reported that a prisoner suffered minor burns after he set fire to himself. The incident was reportedly a protest against the Department’s decision not to transfer him to a facility closer to his home in Boksburg. The report added that the fire was extinguished by fellow prisoners. Reported by Seabelo Modise, 20 March 2012, at <http://www.eyewitnessnews.co.za/Story.aspx?Id=85084>

## UNSENTENCED PRISONERS

**Pollsmoor prison to be designated as a remand centre:** IOL reported that Pollsmoor Prison is being transformed into a centre for remand detainees. Sentenced offenders currently at the prison will reportedly be transferred to other prisons in the Western Cape. Reported by Natasha Prince, 5 March 2012, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/pollsmoor-to-house-awaiting-trial-prisoners-only-1.1249005>

**Remand detainee uniforms:** Times Live reported that the Department of Correctional Services had purchased 100 000 metres of fabric for the manufacture of remand detainee uniforms at a cost of R40 million. Reported by Times Live, 26 March 2012, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2012/03/26/r40m-for-awaiting-trial-outfits>

**Attempted suicide in prison:** IOL reported that a remand detainee was believed to be at risk of committing suicide when he climbed to the top of a high wall and remained for several hours. A prison official reportedly managed to get him to safety. Reported by Poloko Tau, 27 March 2012, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/prisoner-in-alleged-suicide-bid-1.1264626>

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## PAROLE AND SENTENCING

**Increase in long term prisoners:** News 24 reported that a study by the Institute of Race Relations found that between 1995 and 2011 there was a 2400% increase in the number of prisoners serving sentences longer than ten years. It is believed that the sharp increase is a result of the 1997 minimum sentences legislation. Reported by News 24, 5 March 2012, at [http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/SA\\_inmates\\_serving\\_longer\\_sentences\\_20120305](http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/SA_inmates_serving_longer_sentences_20120305)

## SOUTH AFRICANS IMPRISONED ABROAD

**Prisoner released from Thai prison:** IOL reported that a South African citizen who spent 18 years in prison for drug trafficking was released when King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand granted amnesty to foreign prisoners convicted of drug offences. Reported by Laea Medley, 13 March 2012, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/thai-king-frees-sa-drug-mule-1.1255337>

**Drug related offences most prevalent:** News 24 reported that 67% of the 985 South Africans imprisoned abroad have been convicted of drug-related offences. The Department of International Relations and Co-operation released the statistics following the sentencing of Annabella Momplé, a dual South African and Irish citizen in connection with attempting to smuggle cocaine into Britain. Reported by News 24, 19 March 2012, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Jailed-overseas-Two-thirds-have-drug-raps-20120319>

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## OTHER

**Prison honoured with award:** The New Age reported that the Tswelopele Correctional Centre received the Minister of Correctional Services' Special Award for Education and Training at the Annual National Corrections Excellence Awards ceremony held in East London. Reported by Zandisile Luphahla, 7 March 2012, at [http://www.thenewage.co.za/45252-1015-53-Centre\\_gets\\_top\\_award](http://www.thenewage.co.za/45252-1015-53-Centre_gets_top_award)

**Court cells flooded:** The Daily Dispatch reported that court proceedings at the Mdantsane Magistrate's Court were disrupted when a water pipe burst flooding the holding cells for awaiting trial prisoners. Court proceedings were reportedly temporarily adjourned in order to drain the area and to transfer the prisoners to the Mdantsane police station. Reported by The Daily Dispatch, 9 March 2012, at <http://dispatch.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/showarticle.aspx?article=34c0caf8985e4e6ca0b7de0ef9cedfe3&key=oaPukO5IIQemJEs3jJNwDg%3d%3d&issue=8148201203090000000001001> (subscription needed)

**Apology from state in connection with lengthy trial:** Sowetan Live reported that it took 15 months for the state to abide by an order of the Public Protector directing that it apologise in writing and compensate financially a rape victim whose case had taken nine years to finalise. Reported by Sowetan Live, 14 March 2012, at [http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2012/03/14/rape\\_victim\\_gets\\_an\\_apology\\_at\\_last](http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2012/03/14/rape_victim_gets_an_apology_at_last)

**Former detainee to sue government:** The New Age reported that a former remand detainee was considering taking legal action against prison officials involved in his wrongful imprisonment. The detainee was reportedly raped and subjected other kinds of abuse before he was discharged when it was discovered that he was not a suspect in a murder case. Reported by Michael Appel, 15 March 2012, at [http://thenewage.co.za/46283-1007-53-Innocent\\_mans\\_prison\\_hell](http://thenewage.co.za/46283-1007-53-Innocent_mans_prison_hell)

## OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

### ANGOLA

**New prison for juveniles:** allAfrica.com reported that a prison for juveniles will be opened "in the next few months" in Kwanza Sul province. The prison reportedly will reportedly be appropriate for the rehabilitation, training and social integration of youth in conflict with the law. Reported by allAfrica.com, 10 March 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201203010152.html>

**Prison services commended:** Angola Press reported that Home Affairs Minister, Sebastião Martins, commended the "preparedness and contribution" of the prison services to the worthy cause of reintegrating prisoners back into society. The statement was reportedly made during an address to prison staff. Reported by Angola Press, 20 March 2012, at [http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en\\_us/noticias/politica/2012/2/12/Home-Minister-hails-prison-services-readiness,8448c50e-f65f-43af-955b-ee5e370da002.html](http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2012/2/12/Home-Minister-hails-prison-services-readiness,8448c50e-f65f-43af-955b-ee5e370da002.html)

**Pledge to improve prison conditions:** Angola Press reported that the Vice Minister of Home Affairs for Prison Service had stated that the Ministry's priority for the current year was to "improve the social conditions of the prison population." Reported by Angola Press, 21 March 2012, at [http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en\\_us/noticias/politica/2012/2/12/Home-affairs-pledges-commitment-improve-prison-conditions.f300aed8-2e61-44d5-abd6-f3c615e7bcba.html](http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2012/2/12/Home-affairs-pledges-commitment-improve-prison-conditions.f300aed8-2e61-44d5-abd6-f3c615e7bcba.html)

### CAMEROON

**Active directors bring about change:** Jade Cameroun reported on positive developments in Bafang and Bangangté prisons. A school was built in one prison and a new kitchen constructed in the other. A separate block for prisoners with TB was also constructed. While these developments are laudable, NGO representatives are reportedly still critical of the generally poor prison conditions across the country. Original report in French. Reported by Hugo Tatchuam, 30 March 2012, at <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=231>

**State invests in Mbouda prison:** Jade Cameroun reported that the Government invested over 12 600 USD for the renovation of cells and sanitation and almost 1 400 USD for improvements to the quality of nutrition. Prior to the renovations there were reportedly no toilets in the prison. Original report in French. Reported by Anne Matho, 30 March 2012, at <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=232>

**Chained to prevent suicide:** Jade Cameroun reported that a 23-year old woman in Edéa Prison was chained to a wall as a means to prevent her from committing suicide. She had reportedly attempted suicide a few times prior to this arrangement. Prison management stated that they will release her when she is “calmer.” The report noted that this kind of treatment is a violation of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Original report in French. Reported by Christian Locka, 30 March 2012, at <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=233>

**HIV patients cease treatment due to malnutrition:** Jade Cameroun reported that prisoners who are HIV-positive are having problems with their antiretroviral treatment due to malnutrition. HIV-positive prisoners get the same food as other prisoners, which is unfortunately incompatible with their medication. This often leads to them abandoning their treatment. Original report in French. Reported by Théodore Tchopa, 30 March 2012, at <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=234>

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**NGO programmes for prisoners:** Radio Okapi reported that Prison Fellowship International (PFI) had commenced a programme called ‘Peace and Productivity’. The programme aims to reduce tensions among prisoners and to train them to increase their productivity. According to PFI’s Vice President, the training, in addition to supporting reintegration, should also help raise the prisoners’ self-esteem. Original report in French. Reported by Radio Okapi, 27 March 2012, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2012/03/27/rdc-une-ong-forme-les-detenus-aux-petits-metiers-les-eduque-la-paix-2/>

## EGYPT

**Court sentences two to death:** News 24 reported that a military court sentenced two prisoners to death following their respective convictions of murder. Reported by news24.com, 7 March 2012, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Egypt-sentences-two-to-death-20120307>

**Mothers reunite with children:** The Egyptian Gazette reported that the Interior Ministry allowed 67 imprisoned mothers to enjoy visits with their children on Mother’s Day, an occasion observed by the Egyptian government. Reported by Ashraf Sadek, 23 March 2012, at <http://213.158.162.45/~egyptian/index.php?action=news&id=23545&title=Mother%E2%80%99s%20Day%20behind%20bars%20in%20Egypt>

## GHANA

**Appeal for contributions to training programme:** Ghana Web reported that authorities at the Amanfrom Prison Camp urged civil society organisations and philanthropists to “contribute meaningfully” towards the expansion of its kente-weaving training programme. The programme, which is one of the “flagship” training projects at the Camp, was established by the Methodist Church of Ghana. Reported by Ghana Web, 5 March 2012, at <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=231160>

**Supreme Court ruling observed:** Ghana Web reported that government officials had stated that the Prison Service would be implementing the Supreme Court ruling that prisoners had a right to vote during elections. The order will reportedly be implemented by putting in place the necessary machinery and structures to enable prisoners to register and access voting ballots. Reported by Ghana Web, 8 March 2012, at <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=231593>

## LIBYA

**“Secret” prison:** The Guardian reported that authorities in Libya have constructed a “secret prison” for the purpose of detaining Saif Gaddafi prior to his trial. The report added that while in prison, Saif will have a chef, satellite television and access to a basketball court. Reported by Chris Stephen, 18 March 2012, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/mar/18/saif-gaddafi-libya-international-criminal-court?INTCMP=SRCH>

## KENYA

**Young children in prison:** allAfrica.com reported that “hundreds of children” aged below four years of age live with their mothers in Kenya’s prisons, which are reportedly severely congested and unhygienic. Reported by Zadock Angira, 1 March 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201202220081.html>

## MALAWI

**Warning against abuse of minors:** Newstime Africa reported that the Child Rights Information and Documentation Centre warned that a wide range of “heinous abuses and exploitation of incarcerated minor offenders” will be inevitable if the judicial workers’ strike continues unabated and the relevant authorities do not take decisive measures to prevent and mitigate the situation. Reported by Charles Mkula, 1 March 2012, at <http://www.newstimeafrica.com/archives/24305>

**Violence against women and children criticised in Parliament:** ipp Media reported that Members of Parliament “exposed” various forms of violence against women and girls in the country’s prisons and criticised the government for failing to prevent such abuse. Reported by Judica Tarimo, 2 March 2012, at <http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=38045>

## MOROCCO

**Court imposes harsher sentences on appeal:** France 24 reported that Adel al-Othmani, the “ring leader” of a group of men convicted in connection with a deadly cafe bombing in Marrakech was sentenced to death on appeal. Al-Othmani was reportedly initially sentenced to life imprisonment. Reported by France 24, 14 March 2012, at <http://www.france24.com/en/20120310-morocco-al-qaeda-marrakech-bomb-cafe-french-tourist>

**Prisoners offered professional training:** Le Matin reported that since 2002 more than 14 000 prisoners have been offered professional training while serving their sentence. Currently, over 6000 prisoners across 44 prisons are afforded a wide variety of training aimed at social rehabilitation. Original report in French. Report by Le Matin, 23 March 2012, at <http://www.lematin.ma/express/Formation-professionnelle- Plus-de-14-000-detenus-beneficiaires-/164295.html>

## MOZAMBIQUE

**Use of force rebuked:** Club of Mozambique reported that the Ministry of Justice had condemned the excessive use of force by police to quell a prison riot at the Nampula provincial prison when prisoners reportedly were protesting against poor food and hygiene. Reported by Club of Mozambique, 14 March 2012, at <http://www.clubofmozambique.com/solutions1/sectionnews.php?secao=mozambique&id=24314&tipo=one>

**Prisoner transfer agreement:** allAfrica.com reported that on 19 March 2012 the respective Ministers of Justice of Mozambique and Malawi signed an agreement regarding the transfer of sentenced prisoners between the two countries. The two Ministers also signed a memorandum of understanding which sets out methods of co-operation regarding the training of prison staff and the rehabilitation of prisoners. Reported by allAfrica.com, 20 March 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201203201309.html>

## NIGERIA

**Gunmen attack prison:** Times Live reported that suspected members of Islamist group Boko Haram attacked and set a prison on fire in Konduga. The report did not say whether any prisoners were injured during the attack. Reported by Times Live, 7 March 2012, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2012/03/07/gunmen-attack-prison-police-station-in-nigeria>

**Prison conditions worries Comptroller:** Sun News Online reported that the Comptroller of Prisons for Ebonyi State, Mr. Columbus Omenuko, expressed alarm over the congestion of remand detention centres. Over 90 per cent of those awaiting trial were reportedly between the ages of 18 and 30. Reported by Goddy Osuji, 30 March 2012, at <http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2012/mar/30/national-30-03-2011-021.html>

## SEYCHELLES

**Prison overcrowding:** Slate Afrique reported that The Seychelles penitentiary system could no longer cope with the high number of Somali pirates who now reportedly represent 20% of the prison population. Kenya and The Seychelles are the two only African countries that have agreed to detain and try suspected Somali pirates. Original report in French. Report by Slate Afrique, 7 March 2012, at <http://www.slateafrique.com/83741/seychelles-pirates-somaliens-surpopulation-prisons>

## SOMALIA

**Prisoners transferred:** Reuters reported that the United Nations transferred 17 convicted Somali pirates to a prison in Somaliland from The Seychelles. Reported by Mark Anderson, 29 March 2012, at

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E82S07420120329>

## SUDAN

**Female prisoners released:** Africa Review reported that the government directed that 796 female prisoners be released in commemoration of International Women's Day, 8 March 2012. Reported by Reem Abbas and Brenda Banura, 8 March 2012, at <http://www.africareview.com/News/Women> prisoners on the rise/-/979180/1362154/-/8psh1i/-/index.html

## SWAZILAND

**Certain diseases more prevalent amongst prisoners:** The Observer reported that the prevalence of HIV, TB and syphilis amongst prison staff is greater by 1%, and by 9% in prisoners compared to the general population. These statistics were revealed by a study conducted to assess the prevalence of infectious diseases among prisoners and correctional services staff. Reported by Winile Masinga, 16 March 2012, at <http://www.observer.org.sz/index.php?news=36613>

## TUNISIA

**Failed escape attempt:** Tunisia Buzz reported that several prisoners attempted to escape from Monastir prison on 30 March 2012 during a strike involving prison staff. The prisoners reportedly tried to escape after refusing to re-enter their cells after their daily exercise and forcing open the main gate of the prison. The army were reportedly called in to prevent the escape. Original report in French. Report by Tunisia Buzz, 31 March 2012, at <http://www.tunisiabuzz.com/tunisie-tentative-echouee-devasion-de-prisonniers-de-la-prison-civile-de-monastir/10369/>

## UGANDA

**Prison schools improve performance:** New Vision reported that the Luzira Inmates Secondary School achieved better results in 2011 compared to 2010 in the ordinary and advanced level examinations. The improvement is reportedly a result of government providing teachers and scholastic materials. Reported by Petride Mudoola, 2 March 2012, at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/629350-chains-broken-as-death-row-inmates-excel.html>

**Transport problems affect court system:** New Vision reported that inadequate facilities to transport prisoners to court have caused severe backlogs in the court roll. The report noted that only one bus is available to transport prisoners from one court to the next. Reported by Petride Mudoola, 10 March 2012, at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/629530-Poor-transport-systems-affecting-court-proceedings.html>

**Authorities seek funding for infants in prison:** New Vision reported that the Uganda Prison Service is seeking funds to cater for children detained with their mothers. In its 21 detention facilities for women, the Prisons Service reportedly accommodates 161 children. Reported by Petride Mudoola, 11 March 2012, at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/629544-prisons-look-for-funds-for-children-behind-bars.html>

**Health facility handed over:** allAfrica.com reported that the International Committee of the Red Cross handed over a pilot health project at Kampala's Luzira Upper Prison to the Ugandan authorities on 21 March 2012. The report said that over the last four years, prisoners at Luzira Upper Prison received treatment for tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS as a result of the pilot project. Reported by allAfrica.com, 21 March 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201203220316.html>

## ZIMBABWE

**Woman arrested in Hong Kong:** The Herald reported that a Zimbabwean woman was arrested in Hong Kong after being found in possession of drugs whilst en route to Thailand. The report added that there are currently 16 female Zimbabweans serving various prison sentences in Asian prisons for drug trafficking. Reported by Peter Matambanadzo, 8 March 2012, at [http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=35875:zimbabwean-arrested-for-drug-trafficking-in-hong-kong&catid=46:crime-a-courts&Itemid=138](http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35875:zimbabwean-arrested-for-drug-trafficking-in-hong-kong&catid=46:crime-a-courts&Itemid=138)

**Prison service commended:** The Herald reported that the Zambia Prison Service Commissioner commended the Zimbabwe Prison Service for exhibiting the highest level of professionalism in preserving human dignity in prisons. The statement was reportedly made during a five day working visit which included a tour of Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison. Reported by Fungai Lupande, 20 March 2012, at [http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=36827:zambian-commissioner-praises-zim-prisons&catid=37:top-stories&Itemid=130](http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=36827:zambian-commissioner-praises-zim-prisons&catid=37:top-stories&Itemid=130)

**Death penalty:** allAfrica.com reported that the Constitution Making Management Committee (Copac) has unanimously agreed that the death penalty be abolished for all crimes except for aggravated murder. Reported by Lloyd Gumbo, 27 March 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201203270162.html>

**Prisoners deprived of food:** allAfrica reported the food situation in the country's prisons had once again become critical following the withdrawal of aid by the Red Cross at the request of the government of national unity. Reported by Tichaona Sibanda, 28 March 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201203290010.html>



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