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Prisons to increase self sufficiency: The Minister of Correctional Services, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, is reported to be considering returning to the system in which prisoners worked on prison farms to produce food for their own consumption. According to the report, prisoners would produce their own food in future to ease pressure on the budget of the Department of Correctional Services. The department currently pays catering contractors millions of rand per year to run prison kitchens and feed prisoners. The Minister said, under the Correctional Services Act, prisoners are supposed to work but this is uncommon in South African prisons. Reported by Siyabonga Mkhwanazi, 6 April 2010, IOL, at

http://www.iol.co.za/index.phpset_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20100406043212436C595118

PAROLE AND SENTENCING

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Court releases sick prisoner on humanitarian grounds: The Bellville Specialised Commercial Crimes Court has converted a six-year prison term of a terminally ill prisoner to one year, IOL reported. Stephen Rosen was sentenced to six years imprisonment after being convicted on 101 counts of fraud involving R1, 86 million.

According to the IOL report, Magistrate Amrith Chabillal said "You need to understand that your criminal history goes against you and that it's only on humanitarian grounds that I am ruling in favour of your release from prison". In delivering his judgment, the magistrate emphasised that "As of today, the prison authorities are authorised to release you, but for the next five years you will have a suspended jail sentence hanging over your head". SAPA, 9 April 2010, IOL, at

http://www.iol.co.za/index.phpset_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=nw20100409174741218C607003

Parolee can still tender for government business: Convicted fraudster Schabir Shaik, who is alleged to have avoided serving his full prison sentence and is awaiting a response to his application for a presidential pardon, is also free to pitch for government business, IOL reported. The report said in terms of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, which came into effect on 27 April 2004, those involved in corruption or bribing state officials to influence the outcome of tenders are prevented from doing business with the government for up to 10 years. However, Shaik avoided being blacklisted on the tender register because he was convicted of offences under the previous Act. Spokesman for the National Director of Public Prosecutions Menzi Simelane, Bulelwa Makeke, said "The old act did not carry provisions to blacklist names on the register, and certainly no such burden was placed on the NDPP. While the current act includes such provisions, they are not retrospective in effect". Reported by Edwin Naidu, 11 April 2010, IOL, at

http://www.iol.co.za/index.phpset_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20100411080312168C423359

Man gets 20 years for R50 killing: The KwaZulu Natal High Court sentenced a 19-year old man to 20 years imprisonment after he allegedly stabbed Sibonelo Zondi 30 times thus causing his death. According to The Witness, Sihle Zimu (19) stole R50 from his victim. Zimu, who pleaded guilty to the murder and aggravated robbery of Zondi, was sentenced to an effective 20 years by Judge Leona Theron. She found substantial and compelling circumstances justifying departure from the prescribed sentence, life imprisonment, imposing 20 years for the murder and 15 years for the robbery. She ordered that the sentences run concurrently. The Witness, 22 April 2010, at

[http://www.witness.co.za/index.php?showcontent&global\[_id\]=39337](http://www.witness.co.za/index.php?showcontent&global[_id]=39337)

Man wrongfully imprisoned for 2 years: Mzimkulu Hilton Mpemvana, 42, is suing the Ministers of Justice and Safety and Security for two years of wrongful imprisonment, IOL reported. The report further stated that Mpemvana is claiming the sum of R1 million in damages based on the fact that under section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Act, the State had failed to make a case against him. He alleges that the ministers and employees in their departments were negligent for failing to ensure that the proceedings were dealt with timeously and according to the dictates of justice. Reported by Fatima Schroeder, 20 April 2010, IOL, at

http://www.iol.co.za/index.phpset_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20100420131544324C544211

PRISON CONDITIONS

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DCS denies Kokstad prison hunger strike: A report on SABC news said that the Department of Correctional Services has denied an allegation that prisoners at the Kokstad prison had been on hunger strike, since Human Rights Day. However, the Department's spokesperson, Manelisi Wolela acknowledged that one prisoner was on hunger strike. According to the report, some prisoners were moved from Mangaung Prison in September 2009, after they had allegedly embarked on various actions including hunger strike. SABC, 3 April 2010, at

<http://www.sabcnews.com/portal/site/SABCNews/menuitem.5c4f8fe7ee929f602ea12ea1674daeb9/?vgnextoid=b46c9f56cb2c7210VgnVCM10000077d4ea9bRCRD&vgnnextfmt=default>

MPs shocked about sexual abuse in prisons: Members of Parliament's Correctional Services Portfolio Committee were shocked when briefed by the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) about the

extent of sexual violence in prisons. Sasha Gear, of CSV, said that it had been difficult to get the Department of Correctional Services to give the matter the attention it deserves. According to the report the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Vincent Smith, told the Department's acting commissioner, Jennifer Schreiner, he wanted answers about what action the department will take to eradicate sexual violence in men's prisons. Gear also said that "while members with the best of intentions are hindered by lack of skills and clear policy to deal with sexual violence, others are themselves involved directly in the sex trade of [prisoners] or taking bribes in order to turn a blind eye to abuses and not act on reports". Reported by Wyndham Hartley, 15 April 2010, BusinessDay, at <http://www.businessday.co.za/Articles/Content.aspx?id=106249>

Prisoners swallow metal objects: A report in News24 related how prisoners deliberately swallow lengths of wire and other items such as screws and toothbrushes. The research, published in the SA Medical Journal, was based on a study of medical records of 1 112 prisoners at the Mangaung maximum security prison outside Bloemfontein and was carried out by Professor Samuel Smit and Mangaung clinic manager Frans Kleinhans of the University of the Free State. According to the report, findings of the research showed that most of those prisoners who swallowed objects were repeat swallowers. "Inmates favour radio-opaque objects because they want proof of their actions," they said. "Sometimes the sharp ends of wires or screws were bent over or covered with plastic before being swallowed." "Swallowing is done as a circus artist swallows a sword." They also found that once prisoners became adjusted to prison life, they stopped the practice. SAPA, 22 April 2010, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Prison-cases-hard-to-swallow-20100422>

MPs probe case of woman in male prison: The case of a 35-year old woman, Denise Wilson, who was reportedly locked up in a male prison for six months reached the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services. Acting DCS Commissioner, Jennifer Schreiner, was grilled by MPs about the case. A Cape Times report said that Wilson was repeatedly raped and assaulted while in the male section at Westville prison in Durban. She is suing the Department of Correctional Services for R100000 in compensation. Cape Times, 22 April 2010, at <http://www.capetimes.co.za/index.php?SectionId=3235&fRequestedUrl=%2Findex.php%3FfArticleId%3D5439733> (Full subscription needed)

Calm returns to private prison after riot: A report on Eyewitness said that calm has returned to the privately operated Kuthama Sinthumule Prison in Limpopo after a riot broke out in the prison. According to the report, the riot was the result of water shortages that provoked several prisoners to break out of their cells and set fire to offices protesting the lack of water. Reportedly the district is experiencing water shortages. Reported by Katherine Child, 26 April 2010, The Eye witness, at <http://www.eyewitnessnews.co.za/articleprog.aspx?id=38118>

SECURITY AND ESCAPES

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Police search for escapees leaves 15-year-old dead: An IOL report said that a 15-year old boy was shot dead while police was searching for escaped prisoners. The boy's father, Sbu Ndlovu said his son, Kwazi had been sleeping on the couch when police stormed the house and shot him. According to the report, the police said they were searching for Thili Mzimela, one of the eight prisoners who escaped from Westville prison in February 2010. His aunt, Esther Majola, said "Without asking any questions they just shot the boy. Something must be done about this". SAPA, 1 April 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.phpset_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=nw20100401184403673C590970

Four escaped from Queenstown prison: According to a News24, four prisoners awaiting trial on charges including rape and murder are reported to have escaped from the Queenstown prison. Monwabisi Roxa, Phumlani

Robert Zulu, Bongani Bovu and Fundile Njokweni, escaped from the prison after breaking a toilet window and sawing through the steel bars. Police spokesperson, Zama Feni, said that the four were due to appear in court between April and June 2010. SAPA 17 April, 2010 at

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/4-escape-from-Eastern-Cape-prison-20100416>

SOUTH AFRICANS IMPRISONED ABOARD

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Court reduces South African man's sentence: A High Court Judge in Botswana, Justice Terrence Rannowane, has reduced the sentence of a South African who was sentenced by Kasane Magistrates Court for a single count of possession of goods stolen outside Botswana, The Gazette reported. Siphon Dunakude, is alleged to have been found to be in possession of a grey Isuzu bakkie valued at R 125 000 knowing or having reason to believe the same to have been stolen outside Botswana. He was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment by the Kasane magistrate's court. However, on appeal, Justice Rannowane set aside the five-year sentence and substituted it with five years' imprisonment, two of which were suspended for three years provided he is not convicted of a similar offence during the period. The sentence is to run from the time he was imprisoned. Reported by Oarabile Mosikare 7 April 2010, The Gazette, at

http://www.gazettebw.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6040:court-cuts-south-africans-sentence-&catid=19:northcast&Itemid=2

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Boeremag trial soon to celebrate 7th Anniversary: A report from IOL stated that the Boeremag trial in the Pretoria High Court is becoming one of the longest trials in South African history. Despite the fact that the case is believed to be at its end, not all the accused have testified in court. It is said that one of the men who declined to testify in his own defence was Herman van Rooyen who with co-accused Rudi Gouws escaped from court. It is claimed that Van Rooyen was one of the group's leaders. According to the report, some of the men have been awaiting trial for the past seven years. One who pleaded guilty is currently out on parole, IOL reported. Reported by Zelda Venter, 5 April 2010, IOL, at

http://www.iol.co.za/index.phpset_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20100405043015307C803821

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ANGOLA

Angola advances in prison reform: Angola Press reported that a delegation of the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which visited the country on April 19-26 2010, expressed satisfaction with

regards to the level of investments made to improve prison conditions, especially for women. According to the report, Viana Female Prison, was cited as an example with regard to respect for human beings and women's dignity. Angola Press, 27 April 2010, at

http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2010/3/17/African-human-rights-delegation-satisfied-with-visit,ced7d574-b604-43d5-b598-5ffc4662e5b7.html

BOTSWANA

Prisoners received presidential pardon: Botswana president, Lt Gen Ian Khama, has pardoned nine prisoners who were serving life sentences for murder. According to a report in The Gazette, the Department of Prisons and Rehabilitation spokesperson, Senior Superintendent, Mr. Wamorena Ramolefhe, confirmed the pardons, when he said "There is no doubt that public security was considered; it is just that these convicts committed offences just like anyone in the community." It is reported that President Khama pardoned more than 1 082 prisoners in May 2008, setting some free while reducing the others' sentences. Reported by Aubrey Lute, 7 April 2010, The Gazette, at

http://www.gazettebw.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6031:khama-frees-nine-murder-convicts&catid=18:headlines&Itemid=2

Government sued for excluding foreign prisoners from medical care: According to a report in The Botswana Gazette, the Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) is reported to have filed papers in a suit to challenge the government's discriminatory policy and practice regarding foreign prisoners. This follows the government's decision to exclude foreign prisoners from free medical services, including HIV/AIDS medication. The Gazette reported that BONELA has taken the initiative to support the prisoners in court. BONELA Director, Uyapo Ndadi, said many foreign prison inmates face a similar situation. "We will represent them before court too. We are at an advanced stage to launch the application. The government's policy is discriminatory and counterproductive". Reported by Khonani Ontebetse, 14 April 2010, The Gazette, at

http://www.gazettebw.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6115:foreign-prisoners-take-govt-to-court-&catid=18:headlines&Itemid=2

Prisoner who cleaned execution room infected with HIV: A report in The Botswana Gazette said that a prisoner at the Gaborone Maximum Prison is suing the department after he allegedly contracted HIV while cleaning up after death-row prisoners had been executed. Radikgobati Sebape was sentenced to a total of 30 years in 2002 for robbery, motor vehicle theft and rape which he is serving at the Gaborone Maximum Prison. In a letter written to the Commissioner of Prisons, Sebape demands payment of P 8 million as compensation for the infection, The Gazette reported. Sebape said "I used to clean the place before the condemned prisoners were hanged. I also cleaned the machine that was used to execute all these prisoners; every time it would be blood stained, as well as the floor, whereas in actual fact I'm not the one who was supposed to do that". Reported by Khonani Ontebetse, 21 April 2010, Botswana Gazette, at

http://www.gazettebw.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6184:prisoner-to-sue-govt-for-p8-million-&catid=18:headlines&Itemid=2

CAMEROON

Journalist dies in prison: The government of Cameroon is reported to have ordered an inquiry into the death of Bibi Ngota, managing editor of the Cameroun Express, who had been charged with fraud. According to an IOL report, Ngota died at the Kondengui Central Prison in Yaoundé. It is alleged that he had suffered from high blood pressure and a slipped disc before he was imprisoned on 10 March 2010, but media rights groups said he had been denied medical attention. "The government has just ordered the opening of a judicial inquiry with the aim of clarifying both the circumstances and the causes of the death", said a government spokesman, Issa Tchiroma Bakaray at a press conference. He added that Ngota had received intensive medical care at the prison. SAPA-AFP, 24 April 2010, IOL, at

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100424075700881C796376

GAMBIA

Rights activist sent to back prison: A News24 report said that a Gambian human rights activist who failed to pay his \$194 000 bail was returned to prison. According to the report, Edwin Nebolisa Nwakaeme, a programme director at Africa in Democracy and Good Governance (ADG), was imprisoned after writing to President Yayha Jammeh, asking permission to nominate his daughter as a goodwill ambassador for Children's Rights Day. A legal practitioner said that "imposing such a bail bond on Edwin shows that the state [was] going at all costs to [imprison] him". Nkwakaeme, though appearing very weak in court, was escorted to the state central prison after telling the court that he could not afford the bail amount. SAPA, 8 April 2010, News24, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Gambian-activist-sent-back-to-jail-20100407>

LIBYA

Lockerbie bomber celebrates his birthday: IOL reported that the released Lockerbie bomber celebrated his birthday eight months after being released from prison. Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi is reported to have made a "remarkable recovery" after being allowed to return home from a Scottish prison on compassionate grounds. Megrahi was handed a minimum term of 27 years imprisonment for the Lockerbie bombing but served less than seven-and-a-half years of his prison term. IOL, 1 April 2010, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=3&art_id=iol127010070777L261

MAURITANIA

Minister committed to prison reform: Afrique en ligne reported that Mauritanian Justice Minister, Abidine Ould El Kheir, has vowed to improve conditions in the country's prisons and accelerate procedures for fair trials. According to the report, the minister made the declaration during a ministerial tour of the prisons in the capital city, Nouakchott. It is alleged that prisoners accused of belonging to a branch of Al-Qaida in Islamic Maghreb (AQMI), are on hunger strike to protest against their prison conditions. The African Commission on Human and People's Rights has lamented the overcrowding situation in prisons, denouncing particularly that the main prison in Nouakchott holds more than 1000 prisoners but was built for 300. The majority of prisoners are awaiting trial. Afrique en ligne, 24 April 2010, at <http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/mauritania-vows-to-improve-prison-conditions-2010042448285.html>

MOZAMBIQUE

Torture and ill treatment in Maputo maximum security prison: It has been reported that following alerts from the Mozambique Human Rights League, Liga dos Direitos Humanos (LDH), the Mozambique Justice Minister, Benvinda Levi, visited Maputo maximum security prison. She was informed about the ill treatment and torture of prisoners at the hands of prison guards. Minister Levi said "this is the first time I have come across cases of this kind in the country's top security prisons". She promised to investigate and to take the necessary measures to deal with the situation. *Original report in Portuguese.* Reported by Club of Mozambique, Lda, 19 April 2010, at <http://www.clubofmozambique.com/pt/sectionnews.phpsecao=mocambique&id=15747&tipo=one> see also <http://allafrica.com/stories/201004191074.html>

NIGERIA

Life in Nigeria's prisons: ThisDay reported that life in Nigeria's prisons is a violation of internationally accepted standards. Prisoners live in appalling conditions, many of whom have been awaiting trial for 10 years despite the fact that section 35 of the Nigerian Constitution guarantees the right to be heard in a court of law within a reasonable time. The report alleged that "most prisons have small clinics or sick bays but lack medicines, and in many prisons inmates have to pay for their own medication. Guards frequently demand that prisoners pay bribes for "privileges" such as receiving visitors, contacting their families and, in some cases, being allowed outside their cells at all. Prisoners with money may even be allowed mobile phones, whereas those without funds can be left languishing in their cells", 4 April 2010, ThisDay, at <http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=170791>

65 % of prison population are awaiting trial prisoners: Nigeria is Africa's most populated country with a population of over a 100 million people. A report in the Daily Trust stated that there are 46,000 prisoners in Nigeria, 65 percent of whom are awaiting trial with some having been there for more than ten years. Interior Minister, Capt. Emmanuel Iheanacho, said that only 16,000 prisoners have been convicted, Daily Trust reported. The minister is reported to have apologised to the prisoners during a visit to the Kuje prison in Abuja. Reported by Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar, 14 April 2010, Daily Trust, at http://news.dailytrust.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17283:65-of-prison-inmates-awaiting-trial-&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=119

300 death row prisoners to be executed: Nigeria's State Governors are reported to have supported a plan to execute more than 300 prisoners on death row in order to clear space in the overcrowded prisons, News24 reported. According to the report, the Governor of the South Eastern State of Abia, Theodore Orji, said "It was agreed that those people who have been condemned should be executed accordingly". He made the statement after a meeting of the 36 State Governors. News24 reported that there are 330 prisoners are on death row in Nigeria. Capital punishment remains on the statutes despite being rarely implemented. The last official execution was in 2002. However, Amnesty International, which campaigns against the death penalty, said it has found evidence of ongoing secret executions in prisons. The Governors said also that 80% of Nigeria's prison population is awaiting trial prisoners. Reported by Beatrice Khadige, 21 April 2010, News24, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Nigeria-executions-to-clear-jails-20100421>

Kaduna prisoners riot: Prisoners at the Kaduna Central prison were reported to have attempted a mass prison escape on 20 April 2010, Daily Trust reported. According to the report, the angry prisoners were protesting the transfer of Reverend King out of the Kaduna central prison and other maltreatment of prisoners by prison authorities. An unnamed source said that Reverend King was a high profile prisoner who had been influencing both prison staff and inmates with money to bend the rules in his favour. "He is so popular with the inmates that he was a virtual lord in the Kaduna central prison. He was in the habit of buying drugs for sick prisoners, paying the stipulated fines for other convicts and giving welfare to prison staff", the source said. Reported by Ibraheem Musa, 21 April 2010, Daily Trust, at http://www.news.dailytrust.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17723:why-kaduna-prisoners-rioted&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=119

Governors agree on executions: ThisDay reported that the Nigerian governors agreed to start with the execution of death row prisoners. According to the report, it has been 10 years since the government imposed an unofficial moratorium on the death penalty. ThisDay reported that the decision to commence with executions is motivated by a desire to decongest prisons but that this does not hold water as the current prison population is approximately 42 000 prisoners, of which 26,000 are awaiting trial prisoners and less than 1,000 prisoners sentenced to death. Reported by Olawale Fapohunda, 26 April 2010, Thisday, at <http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=171874> see also <http://www.punchng.com/Articl.aspx?theartic=Art2010042116323546>

Minister set 90-days deadline to decongest prisons: Overcrowding in most prisons across Nigeria is a cause for concern. The inhumane conditions under which prisoners live have prompted the government to set a 90-day deadline to decongest prisons. According to a report in Next, the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice, Mohammed Bello Adoke, in cooperation with the Justice Department and the Nigerian Bar Association have set July 2010 as the deadline for the decongestion of 227 prisons across Nigeria. A spokesman for the Minister of Justice, Onyema Omenuwa, told Next reporters that the Minister was aware of the fact that some prisoners ought not to be in prison. The report stated that 65 percent of prisoners in Nigeria are awaiting trials. Reported by Sebastine Ebhuomhan 29 April 2010, Next, at http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/News/5561419147/justice_minister_sets_90-day_deadline_for.csp

Prisons harden criminals: The overriding purpose from colonial times was and is to reform prisoners and protect the society, through deterrence, and punishment, Nigerian Compass reported. Other purposes include ensuring that those convicted of crime are kept in safe custody; they are given training to develop skills. However, the situation in Nigeria seemed to be the opposite: "Instead of reforming prisoners, it hardens them. Prisons are in a

sordid state and the conditions under which prisoners live are pathetic, retrogressive and do not meet modern and international standards for inmates. Prisoners are subjected to horrible, degrading punishments, sometimes far beyond the level of the crimes committed, leaving them at the end of the day, physically and psychologically drained, unwanted, unloved and abandoned in an uncaring environment". Reported by Chioma Pius, 30 April 2010, Nigerian Compass, at,

http://www.compassnewspaper.com/NG/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=47135:nigerian-prison-a-reinforcement-of-criminality-&catid=42:commune&Itemid=796

RWANDA

Head of prison detained for corruption: A report in The New Times said that the Director of the Gisenyi Prison in Rubavu district, Michael Murara, has been detained in connection with allegations of corruption and other offences related to the illegal awarding of tenders. According to the report, Commissioner General of Prisons, Mary Gahonzire, confirmed that there was an incident of corruption. She said: "He awarded this tender without my consent. He had other irregularities that were already investigated by a steering committee headed by the Mayor," adding that "I personally informed Rubavu District Police Commander, Gilbert Ruhoraza, to closely monitor this case". Reported by Robert Mugabe, 28 April 2010, The New Times, at

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14240&article=28428>

Prison Commissioner welcomes UN request for warders: The Commissioner General of the National Prisons Service, Mary Gahonzire, has welcomed a decision from the UN Security Council, calling on Rwanda to make a contribution of prison warders to Haiti. The commissioner said "I'm glad that Rwanda is heeding a request from the UN to contribute prison warders to the earthquake devastated nation of Haiti." According to the report, four senior prison warders will be sent to Haiti in the first phase. Reported by Linda Kamaliza Kimironko, 28 April 2010, The New Times, at

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14215&article=27498>

Genocide offender dies in prison: Jean Bosco Barayagwiza, one of the founders of the infamous Radio Television des Mille Collines (RTLM) and a senior member of the extremist political party, Coalition for the Defence of the Republic (CDR), has died in prison, The New Times reported. According to the report, Barayagwiza was serving a 32-year prison term in Benin for his role in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) said the Barayagwiza died at the Centre Hospitalier Départemental de l'Ouéme at Porto Novo, where he was admitted on 5 March 2010. ICTR spokesperson, Roland Amoussouga, said that the cause of Barayagwiza's death is still unknown but that investigations are proceeding. Reported by Gashegu Muramira, 28 April 2010, The New Times, at

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14243&article=28495>

Ex-mayor gets 8 months in prison: The Intermediate Court of Gasibo District has sentenced former mayor, Jean Marie Vianney Murego, to eight months' imprisonment, The New Times reported. According to the report, the ex-mayor was convicted found guilty of the expropriation of public funds worth Rwf 88 millions, meant for the construction of Kabarore Hospital in Gatsibo District. The report added that Murego's eight-month sentence is in addition to another 3-year sentence he was handed by the same court over embezzling money meant for the supply of exotic cows in the district. Reported by Dan Ngabonziza, 28 April 2010, The New Times, at

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14215&article=27527>

UGANDA

Torture case goes to Constitutional Court: New Vision reported that High Court judge, Yorokamu Bamwine, has referred to the Ugandan Constitutional Court the case of Hoima town council chairperson, Francis Atugonza. The case is against Brigadier James Mugira and four other army officers for allegedly torturing Atugonza. Atugonza said he was imprisoned and tortured by the Joint Anti-Terrorism Taskforce soldiers, which Mugira co-ordinated. Reported by Andante Okanya, 20 April 2010, All Africa.com, at

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004210578.html>

Conservative Party advocates for breastfeeding mothers in prison: In a bid to improve prison conditions to suit infants in prison, the Conservative Party (CP) of Uganda, has called for the separation of breastfeeding mothers into special cells, Ultimate Media reported. According to the President of the CP, John Ken Lukyamuzi, the separation will enable babies in prison to grow in a healthy environment while in prison with their mothers. The report also said that Lukyamuzi has appealed to the government to enact laws that will protect children imprisoned with their mothers. Nursing mothers at the Luzira prison complained that they are finding it hard to produce milk for their babies because of poor nutrition, Ultimate Media reported. Ultimate Media, 29 April 2010, at, <http://www.ugpulse.com/articles/daily/news.aspabout=CP+calls+for+special+cells+for+breast+feeding+mothers+%&ID=14323>

ZAMBIA

Prisons turned into a "death trap": A report in the New York Times depicts the deplorable and inhumane conditions in which prisoners live in Zambia. Prison overcrowding, disease, poor nutrition, plagues most prisons. According to the New York Times report, Mukobeko Maximum Security Prison, built in 1950 for a capacity of 400, held 1,731 inmates, the report said. Lusaka Central prison, built in 1923 for 200, contained 1,145 people. Prisoners told investigators that their bodies were "packed like pigs," "squeezed like logs in a pile," or "like fish in a refrigerator." The situation has been described as a "death trap". Reported by Celia W Dugger, 27 April 2010, New York Times, at, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/28/world/africa/28zambia.html>

TB ravaged prisons: A report from The Guardian said that Zambian prisons, as is the case in many African countries, have not been spared by the spread of tuberculosis (TB). Zambia ranks among the top ten countries in the world in terms of TB prevalence. This has caused the government to isolate TB infected prisoners from the general population. However, the problem of TB in Zambian prisons has been further aggravated by overcrowding. Since TB isolation cells in Zambian prisons are less overcrowded than standard cells, and some prisoners who have completed treatment choose to remain there, a situation that can lead to immediate re-infection has developed. A doctor said that "Where there are TB patients there is more space, and inmates want to sleep there. You find pregnant women in the cell with TB patients. You may say it's not medically acceptable, but what can you do?" Reported Joseph Amon, 27 April 2010, The Guardian , at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2010/apr/27/zambia-tuberculosis-tb-prisons>

EU welcomes Zambia's prison health report: A report released by rights groups in Zambia has described conditions in prisons as unjust and unhealthy, The Times of Zambia reported. Diseases such as HIV/Aids, TB, are rampant in prison due to overcrowding, a common phenomenon in prisons across the country. The European Union (EU) has welcomed a report on prison health submitted by Human Rights Watch (HRW), Prisons Care and Counselling Association and the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA). Aloys Lorkeers, Head of the EU section for Political Trade, Press and Information, said "The report by HRW, PRISCCA and ARASA is the first analysis of prison health conditions in Zambia by independent human rights organizations". According to the report, "The EU Heads of Mission equally welcome[d] the National Audit of Prison Conditions in Zambia by the Government of the Republic of Zambia. This report shows the plight of prisoners including long periods awaiting trial detention under difficult health and housing conditions, Times of Zambia reported. The Times of Zambia, 30 April 2010, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201004300282.html>

ZIMBABWE

Executioner disappears: A Zimbabwean executioner is alleged to have disappeared after his last execution in 2004, IOL reported. According to the report, a replacement for him has been difficult to find even though the minimum qualification is a high school education with no experience needed. The departure of the executioner, who was said to be struggling with his conscience, leaves about 50 prisoners on death row at Chikurubi maximum security prison outside Harare, IOL reported. SAPA-AP, 16 April 2010, IOL, at http://www.iol.co.za/index.phpset_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100415222443489C270304

49 prisoners on death row: According to a report in The Standard, the Senate Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights has said that 49 prisoners at Harare Central Prison were on death row. According to the report, many of the prisoners have been on death row for at least four years while exposed to appalling, degrading, torturous and inhumane conditions in the prison. According to The Standard's report, it is alleged that the last executions in Zimbabwe were that of Edgar Masendeke and Stephen Chidhumo in 2004 who had committed various crimes, including murder and escaping from custody at Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison in Harare. The Standard, 25 April 2010, at

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201004261113.html>

Abolition of death penalty debated: The debate on the abolition of the death penalty is in high gear as 49 prisoners are currently on death row, SABC reported. It is reported that the last execution took place in 2005. Barrister Innocent Maja, whose client is on death row, is leading a campaign to remove capital punishment from the legislation. "The [death penalty] method itself is very barbaric because we are still using death by hanging as opposed to other countries that have moved to lethal injection, the gas chamber, electrocution and so on," says Innocent Gonese, member of the Zimbabwean Parliament. According to the report, Human Rights groups have argued that capital punishment is inhuman and compromises democratic principles. Reported by Thulasizwe Simelane, 27 April 2010, SABC, at,

<http://www.sabcnews.co.za/portal/site/SABCNews/menuitem.5c4f8fe7ee929f602ea12ea1674daeb9/?vgnextoid=724bb2cc6ff38210VgnVCM10000077d4ea9bRCRD&vgnnextfmt=default&channelPath=home#>

Complainants ferry suspects from remand prison: A report in The Herald said that complainants have resorted to ferrying suspects who ought to attend court but could not due to a fuel shortage in the prison service. Zimbabwe Prison Service (ZPS) officials indicated they did not have the fuel to transport prisoners to court. ZPS spokesperson Chief Prison Officer Priscilla Mtembo, said "All our vehicles are off the road. We are actually failing to service courts in Harare but we are attending to the problem." This situation has resulted in unnecessary delays in court processes. Reported by Innocent Ruwende, 29 April 2010, The Herald, at

<http://www.herald.co.zw/inside.aspx?sectid=18193&cat=1>

United Nations

UN delegates call for reduction in prison overcrowding: Delegates at the 12th United Nations Crime Congress have called for the overhaul of criminal justice systems to reduce prison overcrowding in many countries, UN News reported. The call came in response to the inhumane conditions of detention caused by overcrowded prisons across the world. One of the speakers at the 12th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Salvador, Brazil, Rob Allen, Director of the International Centre for Prison Studies at Kings College in London, defined overcrowding as "the lack of sufficient space for prisoners to sleep in safety, for women to be kept apart from men, for separating juveniles from adults and serious offenders from minor offenders", UN News reported. UN News, 16 April 2010, at

http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/soccp352.doc.htm?utm_source=MailingList&utm_medium=email&utm_content=vivien.stern%40kcl.ac.uk&utm_campaign=E-News+Bulletin+%2810%29

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