



30 Days Dae Izinsuku

Project of the Community
Law Centre

CSPRI "30Days/Dae/Izinsuku" May 2011

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2011

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Guards suspended over escape: Eye Witness News reported that the Department of Correctional Services has suspended two officials following the escape of a high profile prisoner from Leeuwkop prison. The prisoner at the centre of the suspensions, Andries Msimanga, was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2009 for murder. Reported by Aldrin Sampear, Eyewitness News, 3 May 2011, at <http://www.eyewitnessnews.co.za/articleprog.aspx?id=65210>

More people arrested in connection with prison escapes: News24 reported that four people, including a prison warden, had been arrested for assisting in the escape of various high profile prisoners. Reported by news24.com, 9 May 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/More-nabbed-after-top-criminals-found-20110509>

Delays in the construction of prisons: Business Day reported that the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services was unwilling to commit government funds to the construction of four new prisons through public-private partnerships. Committee members reportedly expressed concern about "the wisdom of privatising a security function that should remain under state control." Reported by Wyndham Hartley, Business Day, 26 May 2011, at <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=143851>

UNSENTENCED PRISONERS

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Paedophile released on bail: The Citizen reported that a man convicted of the rape of a minor was released on R20 000 bail pending the outcome of his appeal against a five-year sentence. The report added that Ian Appleton would be "restricted to only go to a doctor and church" and that his movements would be monitored strictly by the Department of Correctional Services. Reported by the Citizen, 17 May 2011, at <http://www.citizen.co.za/citizen/content/en/citizen/local-news?oid=195271&sn=Detail&pid=334&WCape-p>

PAROLE AND SENTENCING

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Eleven life sentences imposed: Beeld reported that the Ga-Rankuwa Regional Court imposed eleven life sentences on Godfrey Sekgobela for the rape of eleven girls aged between eleven and fourteen years, and a further ten years for two attempted rapes. Reported by Hanti Otto, Beeld, 11 May 2011, Original report in Afrikaans, 11 May 2011, at <http://www.beeld.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Evangelis-gevonniss-na-hy-11-kinders-verkrag-20110511>

Parole decision set aside: The Mercury reported that the Department of Correctional Services had set aside the parole decision of a prisoner convicted of the rape of a photo-journalist following what the Department called "a serious review" of its earlier decision. The accused had been sentenced to 21 years of imprisonment. Reported by the Mercury, 17 May 2011, at <http://themercury.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/showarticle.aspx?article=f3945b6b-8491-4830-970a-c82861709fb7&key=bHKuDrutVrLpYH5eKFkGMg%3d%3d&issue=6403201105180000000001001> (subscription needed)

Suspended prison sentence in murder case: The Mercury reported that a pensioner, Tony Brooks, convicted of causing the death of his mentally ill wife was spared imprisonment. During sentencing the Judge described the accused as a "victim of extreme circumstances," adding that "imprisonment was uncalled for and would destroy the accused". Reported by Tania Broughton, 18 May 2011, The Mercury, at <http://www.themercury.co.za/pensioner-walks-free-in-wife-killing-case-1.1070422>

EXTRADITION

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Judgment suspended in extradition case: IOL reported that judgment had been suspended in an extradition case before the Johannesburg High Court involving two Botswana nationals facing the death penalty in their country. The government of Botswana is said to have refused to give assurances that Jerry Phale and Emmanuel Tsebe would not face the death penalty once they arrive in Botswana. The report added that Lawyers for Human Rights and counsel for the Society for the Abolition of the Death Penalty argued that "it was unconstitutional and unlawful for the government of South Africa to deport people to countries where they faced the death penalty". Reported by Omphitlhetse Mooki, 25 May 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/batswana-pair-back-in-court-1.1073466>

PRISON CONDITIONS

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Sexual violence 'rife in SA jails': The IOL reported that a British court raised the "disturbing possibility that sexual violence is still as rife in South African prisons" as it was when the Jali Commission reported on the high rate of prison violence, including sexual violence, in 2004. These comments emerged during arguments presented by Shrien Dewani's lawyer who hoped to convince the chief magistrate that extraditing Dewani to South Africa would expose him to rape. Reported by Peter Fabricius, 6 May 2011, at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/sexual-violence-rife-in-sa-jails-1.1065392>

SOUTH AFRICANS IMPRISONED ABROAD

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Woman gets 11 years for 'defensive homicide': Times Live reported that the Victoria Supreme Court in Australia found Eileen Creamer, a South African national, guilty of "defensive homicide" connected to the killing of her husband. The report said that she was sentenced to eleven years imprisonment with the possibility of parole after having served seven years. Reported by Subashni Naidoo, 7 May 2011, at <http://www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/article1054937.ece/Wife-gets-11-years-for-defensive-homicide>

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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ALGERIA

Algerian plans to sue the US: News 24 reported that an Algerian national, Saber Lahmar, detained in the Guantanamo Bay prison camp plans to sue former US former president George W Bush, alleging torture by sleep deprivation, electric shocks and simulated drowning. Reported by news24.com, 23 May 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Algerian-sues-US-for-Guantanamo-stay-20110523>

ANGOLA

Prison Services to hold consultative council: AllAfrica.com reported that a three-day Broad Consultative Council would meet in Luanda to analyse prison services in the region. The announcement was reportedly made by the Minister of Home Affairs, Sebastiao Martins, in a declaration marking the celebration of 32 years of prison service. The Minister urged prison personnel to respect the integrity of inmates. Reported by allAfrica.com, 4 May 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201105040050.html>

BURUNDI

Inmates riot at Burundi's Ruyigi prison: People's Daily Online reported that inmates detained at Ruyigi prison had been protesting against poor living conditions. One of the grievances reported was that prisoners

had spent a week without receiving beans (considered the staple food at the prison). The report quoted the Director of Ruyigi prison saying that two inmates had been shot dead while attempting to flee. Reported by peopledaily.com, 18 May 2011, at <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90777/90855/7383746.html>

UN expert welcomes positive rights developments: UN News reported that the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council on Burundi, Fatsah Ouguergouz, welcomed what he said were several positive rights developments, but expressed concern regarding the continuing problems of extrajudicial killings and prison conditions. He also reportedly raised the problem of prolonged preventive detention for many inmates. Reported by UN News, 23 May 2011, at

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38478&Cr=&Cr1>

CAMEROON

Twenty journalists focus on human rights in the prison environment: Jade Cameroun reported that twenty journalists have proposed to write about human rights concerns in the prison environment. The objective of this project is to improve cooperation between journalists and the relevant actors and to create journalism supporting respect for the human dignity of detainees. Original report in French. Reported by Jade Cameroun, 10 May 2011, <http://jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=173>

Prisons are overcrowded and dilapidated: Jade Cameroun reported that Cameroonian prisons are "crumbling" beneath the number of detainees. More than 23 000 detainees are held in prisons that have a cumulative maximum capacity for 15000 inmates. 60% of these inmates are remand detainees. The Ministry of Justice, supported by the European Union, has set up a programme for the improvement of prison condition which has pointed out numerous problems including corruption, dilapidated prison infrastructure, lack of capacity to ensure safety, malnutrition, and lack of professionalism and resources. Original report in French. Reported by Etienne Tassé, Jade Cameroun, 10 May 2011,

<http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=173>

Reports reveal human rights violations detention: Jade Cameroun reported on two instances in which Cameroon's prison system has been severely criticised. Amnesty International (in its Annual Report 2011) reported that prisons and other detention centres were overcrowded and conditions often life-threatening. Medical care and food were often not provided or were inadequate. Moreover, escape attempts were frequent, and several prisoners have been killed during such attempts. The Human Rights Report of the US State Department (published in April 2011) stated that torture was widespread. In response the government reportedly stated that a number of recent and ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the situation in prisons are a show of good faith. Original report in French. Reported by Charles Nforgan, Jade Cameroun, 18 May 2011, at

<http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=180>

Prison visitors charged at New Bell: Jade Cameroun reported that visitors to New Bell prison have to pay to get to see the prisoners they have come to visit. Visitors reportedly form long lines outside the prison and they complain the lines move very slowly. One visitor reportedly complained that this makes it very difficult and expensive to visit. Original report in French. Reported by Blaise Djouokep, Jade Cameroun, 24 May 2011, at

<http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=181>

Prices rocket at Yaoundé Central Prison: Jade Cameroun reported that prisoners in Kondengui Central Prison in Yaoundé are not provided with sufficient food and that prices for additional food on sale within the prison are unreasonably high. Prices are in some cases double of those outside the prison. A prison guard confirmed that "as soon as goods pass the prison doorstep, the prices rocket." Original report in French. Reported by Guy Modeste Dzudie, Jade Cameroun, 24 May 2011, at

<http://www.jadecameroun.com/news.php?detailAct=182>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Civil society condemns recurring escapes in Kangbaya prison: Radio Okapi reported that civil society organisations in Beni have denounced the recurring escapes at Kangbaya Central Prison. Such escapes are reportedly the result of poor prison conditions, lack of health care and nutrition and overcrowding. Ten prisoners, of which five had been sentenced to death, escaped on 8 and 9 May. Original report in French. Reported by Radio Okapi, 12 May 2011, at <http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2011/05/12/beni-la-societe-civile-se-plaint-des-evasions-recurrentes-a-la-prison-de-kangbaya/>

EGYPT

Military trying civilians: Inter Press Services reported that Egyptian military courts had handed down more than 7000 sentences since the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) removed former president Mubarak on 11 February 2011 and assumed control of the country. Most of the trials reportedly involved defendants accused of looting, arson and "thuggery." The courts are also alleged to have sentenced hundreds of protesters critical of the military council's governance and decisions. Reported by the Norwegian Council for Africa, 6 May 2011, at <http://www.afrika.no/noop/page.php?p=Detailed/20531.html&print=1>

GAMBIA

Former army chief imprisoned: News 24 reported that Gambia's Special Criminal Court sentenced former military and navy heads to 20 years imprisonment each for treason relating to a March 2006 coup attempt. Reported by news24.com, 23 May 2011, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Gambia-jails-ex-army-navy-chiefs-20110523>

GHANA

63 remand detainees released: The Ghana Broadcasting Corporation reported that 63 remand detainees at the Nsawam Medium Security Prison whose cases had not been heard since they had been imprisoned had been granted unconditional release under the 'Justice For All' Programme. The report also said that 32 others whose warrants had expired had also been granted bail because their dockets could not be found. Reported by gbcghana.com, 9 May 2011, at <http://gbcghana.com/index.php?id=1.358607.1.379479>

Ghana urged to abolish death penalty: AllAfrica.com reported that Amnesty International had urged authorities in Ghana to abolish the death penalty. Amnesty International cited Togo, Senegal and Cote D'Ivoire as examples of countries that had abolished the death penalty from their statute books. Reported by allAfrica.com, 23 May 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201105231729.html>

GUINEA

Amnesty recommends human rights agenda: Human Rights Watch reported on the release of the 68-page report "We Have Lived in Darkness: A Human Rights Agenda for Guinea's New Government." The report identifies the main factors that have contributed to years of impunity and recommends steps Guinea should take to promote good governance and to end the history of abuse. Recommendations include ending excessive and prolonged pre-trial detention, implementing the UN Convention against Torture, and improving prison conditions. Reported by Human Rights Watch, 24 May 2011, at <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/05/24/guinea-nation-crossroads>

LIBYA

Journalist recounts stay in Libyan prison: PBS reported an interview with James Foley, a journalist captured in Brega and imprisoned for six weeks. Foley describes the treatment of prisoners incarcerated for

supporting the revolution in Libya. He alluded to the torture of detainees and the mistreatment of prisoners of war. Reported by PBS, 25 May 2011, at http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/world/jan-june11/libya_05-25.html

KENYA

Prisoners appeal for destruction of records: AllAfrica.com reported that prisoners at Shimo La Tewa have appealed to authorities to destroy records of their incarceration so as to assist them secure employment. Prison chief Margaret Chuma, speaking on behalf of prisoners, was quoted saying, "the process of keeping finger print records of those inmates who have been released should be removed because these people face big challenges once they get out of prison. The government should review the process to help them." Reported by Irene Wanja, 17 May 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201105180094.html>

MALAWI

Calls for NGOs to assist in the improvement of prison conditions: Malawi Voice reported that a local politician, Sam Mpasu, had called on NGOs to assist with efforts aimed at improving the poor conditions of Malawi's prisons. The politician reportedly described the conditions as "very bad, over populated," noting that prisoner deaths are a frequent occurrence because of poor medical facilities. Reported by Malawi Voice, 24 May 2011, at http://www.malawivoice.com/politics/mpasu-wants-ngo%E2%80%99s-to-act-on-prison-conditions/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=mpasu-wants-ngo%E2%80%99s-to-act-on-prison-conditions

Sick prisoners not "pardoned": The Nyasa Times reported that ill inmates have not been granted presidential pardons despite there being medical reports indicating terminal illness. Presidential pardons, normally carried out during Easter, Independence Day and Christmas holidays have reportedly excluded inmates granted medical endorsements by doctors for early release. Prisons in Malawi are described in the report as "over populated, inhumane, degrading and death traps". Reported by Peter Makossah, 10 May 2011, at <http://www.nyasatimes.com/national/bingu-ignores-macholowe-ill-prisoners-on-pardon.html>

MAURITANIA

Damning report for Mauritania: AllAfrica.com released an excerpt from Amnesty International critical of the prison system in Mauritania. The excerpt noted that torture and ill-treatment were still widespread and prison conditions remained harsh. Also highlighted was the fact that dozens of people were arbitrarily arrested and detained for days or weeks without trial. People suspected of belonging to armed groups were also allegedly detained without trial for long periods. Reported by Amnesty International, 12 May 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201105130676.html>

MOROCCO

Protests over prison conditions: AFP reported that a clash between security forces and prisoners at a prison in Sale, Morocco had occurred earlier this month. Prisoners were reportedly protesting against the conditions of their detention. Reported by AFP, 15 May 2011, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALEqM5i3geWN9gPhfNxumLzvkoPauPp1kg?docId=CNG.2797b7dff287e16a1e77be966d636bc3.a11>

Guards taken hostage in Morocco prison: Reuters reported that five prison guards were taken hostage at an unnamed prison on 16 May 2011 during a situation of "unrest" headed by Islamist prisoners reportedly aggrieved by certain practices and conditions, namely, torture, unfair trials and arbitrary detention. The report added that prison officials used tear gas and truncheons to contain the situation. There has been an increase in prison protests in North Africa following the Moroccan revolution. Reported by Souhail Karam, 17 May 2011, at <http://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFLDE74G0Z020110517?feedType=RSS&feedName=egyptNews&>

utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAfricaEgyptNews+%28News+%2F+Africa+%2F+Egypt+News%29

MOZAMBIQUE

Extradition Bill approved: Net News Publisher reported that the Mozambican parliament had unanimously passed the first reading of a bill setting out the basic rules for extradition. The Bill requires that extradition will only be granted if the crime allegedly committed by the person concerned is also a crime under Mozambican law, and is punishable by a prison term of not less than a year. However, extradition is not granted in cases of political or military offenses, or where the person extradited may face the death penalty or life imprisonment. Reported by netnewspublisher.com, 14 May 2011, at

<http://www.netnewspublisher.com/mozambique-parliament-unanimously-approves-extradition-bills-first-reading/>

Minister imprisoned: Sowetan Live reported that a former Mozambican Minister, Antonio Munguambe, was sentenced to four years and five months in prison for embezzlement. The report also made reference to his accomplice, Deondino Cambaza, who received a twelve year sentence. Reported by Sowetan Live, 24 May 2011, at <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/world/2011/05/24/mozambique-jails-ex-minister-for-corruption>

NIGERIA

Over 1,000 in custody over election offences: AFP reported that more than 1000 people had been imprisoned due to elections offences, bringing the total number of prison inmates in Nigeria to 50 000. The report also said that in the past local and international rights bodies had criticised Nigeria's slow pace in dispensing justice and little progress in decongesting the country's prisons. Reported by AFP, 5 April 2011, at

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hXmS8GEvGTbphfG5JakP-G2SB0Gg?docId=CNG.8b034c6e03fc6e9cc72836ea63a2b581.561>

Calls for urgent prison reforms: Pm News Nigeria reported that the Cross River State governor emphasised the need for prison reform "in order to reduce crime rate." The governor reportedly made such comments while handing out skills acquisition materials to prison inmates in Calabar. Reported by pmnewsnigeria.com, 23 May 2011, at <http://pmnewsnigeria.com/2011/05/23/gov-imoke-calls-for-urgent-prison-reforms/>

Governor commutes death sentence: 234next.com reported that Ondo State governor, Olusegun Mimiko, had commuted the death sentences of three persons to life imprisonment, and granted executive pardons to 14 other inmates serving various prison terms. The report said that the gesture of goodwill was meant to mark the "2011 Democracy Day." Reported by Ayodeji Moradeyo, at <http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/Home/5707534-146/story.csp>

RWANDA

Conference on alternative sentencing opens in Kigali: AllAfrica.com reported that legal experts from the Commonwealth convened in Kigali on 9 May 2011 to discuss alternative sentencing and overcrowding in prisons. The report quoted Justice Minister Tharcisse Karugarama saying that Rwanda had over 200 000 inmates after the genocide and that community service assisted in reducing overcrowding. Reported by Eric Kabeera, 10 May 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/201105100075.html>

Prisoners coerced into making false accusations: Associated Press reported that conditions in prisons in Rwanda are "deplorable to the extent that prisoners attempt to secure their own freedom by incriminating others alleged to have taken part in the 1994 genocide." Reported by Roxana Hegeman, 13 May 2011, at http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5hEYU8HdQ6aUMRAbV2VZdKrF_PmMQ?doc

Id=6878263

Former Rwandan army chief receives sentence: CNN reported that a former Rwandan army chief was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment for his part in the 1994 genocide that killed 800,000 people. The report added that Augustin Bizimungu was found guilty of genocide, crimes against humanity, extermination and rape by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Reported by cnn.com, 17 May 2011, at <http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/africa/05/17/rwanda.genocide.sentence/>

SIERRA LEONE

Organisation gives legal aid to female prisoners: The CS Monitor reported on the work of AdvocAid, a non-profit group based in Freetown providing free legal aid to female prisoners inside Sierra Leone's prisons. The report said Mahtani, a lawyer trained in Britain, founded AdvocAid in 2006 to assist women who faced imprisonment connected to poverty, illiteracy, or other misfortunes. The organisation has provided legal representation to 400 female prisoners since 2009. Reported by Paige McClanahan, 9 May 2011, at <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/2011/0509/Sabrina-Mahtani-provides-legal-aid-to-female-prisoners-in-Sierra-Leone>

SOMALIA

United Kingdom to fund pirate prisons: AllAfrica.com reported that the UK has agreed to fund a programme in support of counter-piracy efforts in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean. Some of the funds are to be used to increase prison capacity in the region. The report added that there are currently 800 Somali pirates either serving sentences or awaiting trial. Reported by allAfrica.com, 1 May 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201105100562.html>

SUDAN

UN to assist in improving prisons: The UN News Centre reported that the United Nations would assist Southern Sudan improve its correctional system when it becomes an independent state on 9 July 2011. The commitment is reportedly an acknowledgement that most of its prisons are in "bad shape" as a result of poor funding. The UN has been assisting Southern Sudan to enhance policies and procedures, improve the standard of infrastructure and to raise the skill levels and practices of prison staff. Reported by un.org, 26 May 2011, at [http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38517&Cr=Southern+Sudan&Cr1 =](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38517&Cr=Southern+Sudan&Cr1=)

SWAZILAND

Swaziland pro-democracy activists denied bail: AFP reported that two activists arrested in pro-democracy protests last month on charges of illegal possession of explosives were denied bail. The two, Maxwell Dlamini and Musa Ngubeni, were arrested on 13 April 2011 during a "clampdown" on protests against the reign of King Mswati III. Reported by AFP, 6 May 2011, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hL2Lq5Lw38d6i5SI9CQ1ffftahvw?docId=CNG.d52d510170bd9583e846ebb448b9e5c7.631>

Damning report for Swaziland: AllAfrica.com reported that Amnesty International has released a report condemning torture, arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and the harassment of dissenters in Swaziland. Reported by AllAfrica.com, 13 May 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201105130551.html>

TUNISIA

2 inmates die in Tunisia prison fire: The Associated Press reported that two inmates had died in a fire which occurred when prisoners set mattresses alight in a bid to escape. The report also said that over 11 000 inmates have escaped from prisons since the uprising that toppled President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in January 2011. Reported by Associated Press, 2 May 2011, at

http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5iiXDWGPfhpwmGCRAMN__ASD-gF6g?docId=6724342

U.N. rapporteur comments on torture: Reuters reported that the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Mendez, said people have been tortured in Tunisia since the revolution which toppled its ruler four months ago. Mendez was concluding a week-long mission to Tunisia where he met with the interim government, civil groups and victims. He said officials were in agreement that torture had to be stamped out but urged them to act immediately. Around 66 people, a third of them minors, were detained after protests in May for 12 hours without access to their lawyers or families, according to reports, he said. He urged the Tunisian government to investigate allegations of torture taking place during and after the revolution, as well as during the authoritarian rule of Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali. Reported by Sylvia Westall, Reuters, 21 May 2011, at <http://af.reuters.com/article/tunisiaNews/idAFLDE74K0AS20110521?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0>

UGANDA

Bail laws to be amended: AllAfrica.com reported that President Yoweri Museveni intends to introduce a constitutional amendment that will amend bail laws so as to deny rioters, rapists and economic saboteurs court bail. The President is quoted saying that the amendment is intended to deal with criminal impunity. Reported by allAfrica.com, 23 May 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201105230052.html>

Torture widely used in Uganda: The Monitor reported that a report prepared by the African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims titled, "The Nature of Torture in Uganda" alluded to beatings as a form of wide spread torture in Uganda. Other forms of torture reported include corporal punishment, stripping, pouring water into cells and placing prisoners on penal diet. Reported by Ephraim Kasozi, 27 May 2011, at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1170078/-/c0yevpz/-/>

ZAMBIA

Government introduces community sentencing: The Lusaka Times reported that the government had introduced community sentencing in an effort to reduce prison congestion. The report said that the introduction of community service as a non-custodial sentence had been well received. Reported by the Lusaka Times, 18 May 2011, at <http://www.lusakatimes.com/2011/05/18/govt-introduces-community-sentencing-reduce-prison-congestion/>

Government told to solve prison congestion: The Lusaka Times reported that Hope for Human Rights had asked Government to treat the Lusaka Central Prison "as a disaster and quickly move in to provide a solution." The report states that prisoners were forced to sleep according to a particular timetable due to inadequate space. Reported by lusakatimes.com, 21 May 2011, at <http://www.lusakatimes.com/2011/05/21/government-told-resolve-prisons-problems/>

Inmates lead the fight against TB in Zambia's prisons: stoptb.org reported that five inmates at Lusaka Central Prison are assisting in the fight against TB and HIV by serving as TB Peer Educators, trained specially to screen for TB and make referrals. The report added that the inmates have been working with the Zambia Prisons Service since August 2010 to carry out TB and HIV screening in three of Zambia's prisons. Reported by stoptb.org, 23 May 2011, http://www.stoptb.org/news/stories/2011/ns11_038.asp

Report indicts Zambia: The Zambian Watchdog reported that the 2011 country report on Zambia highlights gross human rights violations such as unlawful killings; torture, beatings, and abuse of suspects and detainees by security forces; life-threatening prison conditions; arbitrary arrests and prolonged pre-trial detention. Reported by zambianwatchdog.com, 24 May 2011, at <http://www.zambianwatchdog.com/?p=13542>

ZIMBABWE

Court allows Mangoma to travel for GPA meetings: News Day reported that a Court had ordered the relaxation of the bail conditions for Energy and Power Development Minister Elton Mangoma to enable him to travel outside the country on state business. The Minister is accused of abusing his authority by abusing tender procedures in the procurement of fuel. Reported by Feluna Nleya, 1 May 2001, at <http://www.newsday.co.zw/article/2011-05-01-court-allows-mangoma-to-travel-for-gpa-meetings>

Prison head accused of stealing remand detainees' food supplies: The Zim Eye reported that donor fed inmates of Harare Remand prison faced food shortages as a result of much of it having been sold on the black market by the prison's officer in charge. Reported by zimeye.com, 5 May 2011, at <http://www.zimeye.org/?p=29631>

Paul Siwela denied bail: SW Radio reported that a judge had ordered Mthwakazi Liberation Front (MLF) leader, Paul Siwela, to present an affidavit stating that he promises not to commit treason offences if released on bail. The accused and two others are accused of instigating a separatist movement in south Zimbabwe. Reported by Irene Madongo, 10 May 2011, at <http://www.swradioafrica.com/news100511/paulsiwela100511.htm>

Police detain 21 protesters: The Zimbabwean reported that police detained protesters for three hours and later released them without charge. The protesters were reportedly demanding an end to impunity, selective application of the law and the arbitrary arrest of activists. Reported by the Zimbabwean, 12 May 2011, at http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=39528:police-detains-21-peaceful-protesters&catid=31:weekday-top-stories&Itemid=30

Three students on trial: The Zimbabwean reported that three students from Masvingo were detained for watching an allegedly "subversive two hour long video clip depicting President Mugabe being shot at by the military in a war-like simulation." The report said that if convicted the students would either be fined, imprisoned or suffer both fine and imprisonment. The students' lawyer said that the students had complained of not being informed of their charge at the time of arrest and were assaulted during their two-day detention period in police custody. Reported by the Zimbabwean, 12 May 2011, at http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=38725:three-students-appear-in-court-for-watching-war-video-clip&catid=52&Itemid=32

Juveniles sentenced: The Herald reported that three teenagers who allegedly shot and injured a taxi driver were sentenced to "light strokes." The report said that one of the teenagers stole his father's gun and attempted to use it to commit robbery. The caning would reportedly be carried out by a prison officer. Reported by the Herald, 13 May 2011, at http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9915:juveniles-to-be-canned&catid=46:crime-a-courts&Itemid=138

Prison services denies accusations of ill-treatment of remand detainees: AllAfrica.com reported that the Zimbabwe Prison Service denied that prisoners were ill-treated at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. The statement follows a visit by the court which hoped to "acquaint itself with the conditions in which treason suspect Albert Mugove Matapo and his alleged accomplice" are being detained. The report said that the detainees had applied to the court for a ruling that their rights were being violated as the conditions of their cells were unsuitable for human beings. Reported by allAfrica.com, 17 May 2011, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201105170068.html>

Concern for detained Somali refugees: The Zimbabwean reported that More than one hundred Somali refugees and others from the Horn of Africa were languishing at Beitbridge prison. The report said that the refugees, denied entry into South Africa, were arrested by Zimbabwe's anti-crime squad and border guards while trying to cross into South Africa using illegal routes. Reported by

Zimbabwean, 18 May 2011, at

http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=39670:concern-grows-for-detained-somali-refugees-in-beitbridge&catid=31:weekday-top-stories&Itemid=30

High Court orders the release of soldiers: The Zimbabwean reported that the High Court had ordered the release of seven army officers who were arrested four years ago on allegations of planning to oust the former ruling ZANU PF party from power. The report alleged that the army officers, who face charges of 'intention to remove Robert Mugabe from office by unconstitutional means, and conspiracy to commit treason', pleaded not guilty when they first appeared in court but had been remanded in custody since 2007. Reported by the Zimbabwean, 26 May 2011, at

http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=39929:high-court-orders-release-of-2007-coup-plotters-against-&catid=31:weekday-top-stories&Itemid=30

Police wantonly arrest MDC members: The Zimbabwean reported that police arrested "scores of MDC-T supporters" on allegations that they were implicated in the death of a police officer. The report raised the possibility that those picked up would be subjected to torture, deprivation of food and access to medical care. Reported by the Zimbabwean, 30 May 2011, at

http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=40024:police-wantonly-arrest-mdc-members-in-glen-view&catid=31:weekday-top-stories&Itemid=30

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Three countries named in Amnesty International report: Times Live reported that Amnesty International named South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe as countries where there is abuse and torture of suspects in police detention. The research findings are contained in "Amnesty International Report-The State of the World's Human Rights", reported by Irene Madongo, 21 May 2011, at

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/article1079098.ece/Cops-use-torture-to-beat-crime-targets>

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