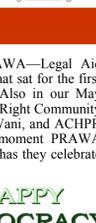




# Security, Justice and Social Development Bulletin

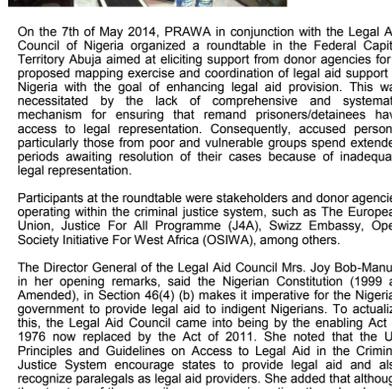


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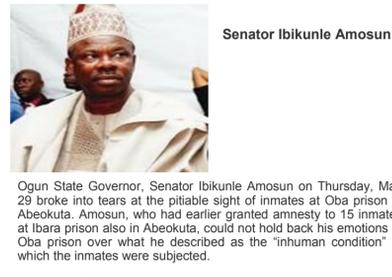


This month's newsletter focuses more on PRAWA—Legal Aid Council Roundtable, and Nigeria Prison Inmates that sat for the first UTMTE CBT to gain admission into university. Also in our May newsletter is the pressure the International Human Rights Community is mounting on Sudan to release Mariam Yahya Wani, and ACHPR and ICJPA call for Application and Papers. At this moment PRAWA will be to congratulate our Children and Nigeria has they celebrate their Day. Welcome to our world...



### NEWS

#### [PRAWA—Legal Aid Council Donor to Partnership Roundtable on Providing National Coordination and Improved Legal Aid Services in Nigeria](#)



**Dr Uju Agomoh**  
PRAWA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
speaking at the Donor Roundtable

On the 27th of May 2014, PRAWA in conjunction with the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria organized a roundtable in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja aimed at eliciting support from donor agencies for a proposed mapping exercise and coordination of legal aid support in Nigeria with the goal of enhancing legal aid provision. This was necessitated by the lack of comprehensive and systematic mechanism for ensuring that remand prisoners/detainees have access to legal representation. Consequently, accused persons, particular those from poor and vulnerable groups, remain extended periods awaiting resolution of their cases because of inadequate legal representation.

Participants at the roundtable were stakeholders and donor agencies operating within the criminal justice system, such as The Open University, Justice For All Programme (J4A), Swiss Embassy, European Society Initiative For West Africa (OSINWA), amongst others.

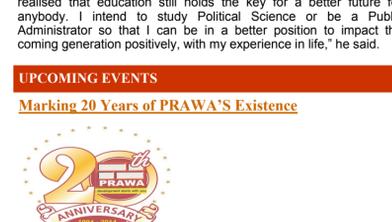
The Director General of the Legal Aid Council Mrs. Joy Bob-Manuel in her opening remarks, said the Nigerian Constitution (1999 as Amended), in Section 46(4) (b) makes it imperative for the Nigerian government to provide legal aid to indigent Nigerians. To actualize this, the Legal Aid Council came into being by the enabling Act of 1976 now replaced by the Act of 2011. She noted that the UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System encourage states to provide legal aid and also recognize paralegals as legal aid providers. She added that although the structure of the council was poor on inception, there has been a gradual improvement since then; that notwithstanding, the Legal Aid Council cannot function effectively without the cooperation and support of other criminal justice sector stakeholders.

Dr. Uju Agomoh, Executive Director of PRAWA explained that prison decongestion processes aim at ensuring that there are fewer numbers of prison inmates on the awaiting trial list. Hence, prison resources will be used instead for the effective rehabilitation and re-integration of convicted offenders. She added that there is an absence of a structured system for monitoring the legal aid needs of remand prisoners, poor coordinators amongst those providing pro-bono services and no specific system of acknowledging/encouraging persons providing pro-bono services.

In Dr. Agomoh's opinion, the solution lies in establishing an effective mechanism to ensure that all remand prisoners have access to legal services. She said this can be done where there is partnership amongst relevant agencies including donor agencies.

The various donor agencies present greatly applauded the proposed initiative, and promised to provide needed support where possible.

#### [Ogun State Governor Call for Better Prison Welfare](#)



**Senator Ibikunle Amosun**

Ogun State Governor, Senator Ibikunle Amosun on Thursday, May 29 broke into tears at the pitiable sight of inmates at Oba prison in Abeokuta. Amosun, who had earlier granted amnesty to 15 inmates at Ibara prison also in Abeokuta, could not hold back his emotions at Oba prison over what he described as the "inhuman condition" to which the inmates were subjected.

He ordered immediate medical attention for the inmates with critical medical conditions and directed that others should be taken to the hospital, after being informed that majority of the 492 inmates on awaiting trial list at the prison had spent between four and seven years in jail.

While conceding that prison services was under the control of the Federal Government, Amosun said it would be irresponsible of any leader to neglect the conditions of prison inmates. He expressed dismay at the deplorable state of prisons saying it would not enhance rehabilitation of inmates.

"I have come to share today with them and see if I can commit death sentences passed on some of them to life imprisonment based on the economic and political relevant quarters. It is not a big name and I feel so ashamed really that I am a governor in this kind of condition that I have seen".

"It is clear that these people are traumatized and dehumanized under this very appalling condition. The condition here is like sending someone to an early grave," he said and promised to pay regular visits to prisons.

#### [Highlights of PRAWA Legal representation for accused persons \(Clearing House\) for the month of May](#)

Updated the Clearing House Register with case updates obtained from Pro bono lawyers, who attended court for the month of April, 2014.

The Clearing House register for the month of May, 2014 had 20 court appearances.

Monitoring of PBL's attendance and activity in court for cases that came up in May, 2014.

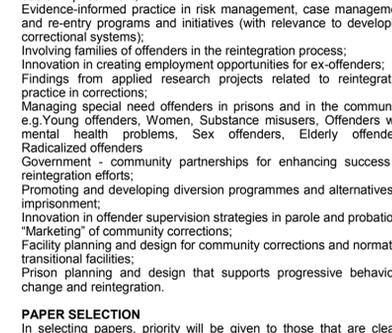
Weekly follow up visits to the CMS Unit at the Enugu State High Court to find out if any information has been filed in court from what is left of the 118 ATPs notified sine die list earlier submitted to the Ministry of Justice for legal opinion, for subsequent assignment to Pro bono Lawyers.

The Clearing House register has a total of 98 cases for the month of April, 2014, out of which 46 cases still awaiting legal opinion from the office of the DPP and 54 cases active in court.

Continued sensitization and creating awareness for more Pro Bono lawyers to join the Clearing House system.

Collaboration with the office of the DPP on long term cases (5 years and above) adjourned sine die.

#### [14 Nigeria Prison Inmates Write UTMTE CBT in Lagos](#)



The Principal of Nigeria Prison Service School, Ikoyi, Mr. Ayodele Obarewo, speaking at the Ikoyi Prison centre of the ongoing 2014 Computer Based Test (CBT) of the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination organized by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), has commended the Federal Government for integrating inmates in the education system in the country.

Ikoyi Prison centre is one of the 16 venues hosting JAMB examination, which had over 600,000 applications from candidates that hope to be admitted into Nigeria Universities.

Obarewo was proud to announce that 14 Nigeria Prison inmates sat for the CBT at the prison centre, which is the first time the inmates will be taking the computer based examination.

He said that the government under the current dispensation had shown its commitment in achieving Education for All (EFA), through its various transformation programmes on education.

"I want to commend the Federal Government for creating this platform where inmates are prepared and enrolled for external examinations such as this. Before now, inmates were perceived as never do wells and that nothing good could come out of the Nigerian Prisons.

"We want to assure the public that a lot of positive things are taking place here in an attempt to reform these persons, with a lot of them showing signs of positive changes. We encourage them here to come to this our school and co-opt their fellow inmates that are better read, to assist in taking them on various subjects.

"Some of them had written the 2013 Nov/Dec. GCE organized by WAEC and have made wonderful results and thereafter, we encouraged them to sit for this examination, and hopefully the candidate will perform well in the UTMTE," he said.

According to Obarewo, the prison has what it takes to train more inmates and produce more graduates.

"Should these students succeed in their examination and wish to continue their education, they will be enrolled in the National Open University of Nigeria where they could get their course materials online. "However, do not forget that the prison terms of some of them writing this examination are about to expire so they could also be lucky enough to be released on time to meet up with the admission process," he said.

He pleaded with members of the public to support their cause by providing volunteer teachers, books and other instructional materials that would assist in educating the inmates adequately.

"You know that education is part of the reformation system and so everything must be put in place in ensuring its maximal benefit. At the end of the whole thing, we can appeal to the judicial arm of government to look into the issues and see how they can be encouraged to pursue their careers", Obarewo said.

He also mentioned some of the challenges facing the candidates, which were inadequate computers, accessories and a bigger generator that will provide power in the school and the prison as a whole.

Also speaking, Mrs. Ngozi Ewuzie, the JAMB supervisor for the centre commended the exercise, describing it as a worthy experience. She said that accreditation to the inmates commenced at 7.00 a.m., and the examination started at 9.00 a.m.

"You can see for yourself that the conduct is quite peaceful contrary to what people might have expected. The candidates have conducted themselves well, with no case of impandation recorded. I really look at this development as an innovation because no one can see them as total failures.

"For government to think along this direction means it is committed to running an all inclusive government and at the end, realize a Nigeria of our dreams," she said.

One of the inmates that participated in the examination, Oyekan Adewale, 46, said he was committed to contribute his quota in the development of the country having seen the both sides of life.

"I have realized that crime does not do one any good. I have also realized that education still holds the key for a better future for anybody. I intend to study Political Science or be a Public Administrator so that I can be in a better position to impact the coming generation positively, with my experience in life," he said.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### [Marking 20 Years of PRAWA'S Existence](#)



"A lot has been done but there is need to do more"

These words echoed in the room as various criminal justice sector stakeholders gathered on 27th March 2014 at the Ritz Hotel, Ikeja GRA Lagos for the subject. The Resolution highlights the following challenges that retarded the development of the Nigerian Criminal Justice system in the past two decades.

### TRAINING

#### [Taking Drug Abuse Awareness to Nigeria Secondary Schools](#)



In today's world, the scourge of drug abuse or drug addiction has become highly worrisome. The consequence of such addiction, abuse, trafficking or even utilization can be devastating; especially as facts continuously note the disturbing level of vulnerability to such substances among youths. More Nigerian youths are becoming drug addicts as Nigeria gradually graduates from a drug consuming nation to a drug producing one.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### [Sudan Faces Mounting Condemnation Over Pregnant Woman's Death Sentence](#)



Sudan is facing mounting condemnation for sentencing a pregnant woman to be whipped and then hanged for adultery and apostasy, and for keeping her shackled in prison with her toddler son a month before she is due to give birth.

Governments, the UN and human rights groups have called on the Sudanese government to immediately release Mariam Yahya Ibrahim, 27, and overturn both her death sentence and sentence of 100 lashes. More than 100,000 people have backed a call by Amnesty International to release Ibrahim.

Ibrahim was arrested after a Muslim relative claimed her marriage to a US citizen was invalid, and thus adulterous, because he is a Christian. Ibrahim was also found guilty of apostasy. But she said she had been brought up a Christian and refused to renounce her faith.

Her lawyers have lodged an appeal against the sentence, which may be heard in Khartoum. Ibrahim is held in harsh conditions and constantly shackled, according to Amnesty. Her 20-month-old son, Martin, has been kept in prison with her since February.

Ibrahim has been told that her execution will be deferred for two years to allow her to deliver and then wean her baby.

Her husband, Daniel Wani, who left Sudan for the US in 1998, has travelled to Khartoum to try to secure the release of his wife and son. He said Ibrahim was being denied medical treatment and he had not been allowed to visit her or Martin, according to media reports.

The Sudanese authorities have reportedly refused to release the child to his father's care because of his Christian faith. Ibrahim — a graduate of Sudan University's school of medicine — told the court she was the daughter of a Sudanese Muslim father and an Ethiopian Christian mother, but was raised as a Christian after her father left the family when she was six.

According to Human Rights Watch, article 126 of Sudan's criminal code says a Muslim who renounces Islam is guilty of apostasy. Punishment will be death, unless the accused recants within three days.

The UK government has summoned Sudan's ambassador to London to the Foreign Office to hear its "deep concern".

In a statement, Foreign Office minister Mark Simmonds said: "This barbaric sentence highlights the stark divide between the practices of the Sudanese courts and the country's international human rights obligations." The Sudanese government must respect the right to freedom of religion or belief, he added.

US senators Kelly Ayotte and Roy Blunt have raised the case with the secretary of state, John Kerry, calling for immediate asylum and full diplomatic engagement to offer Mariam political asylum and secure her and her son's safe release."

The department's spokeswoman, Jen Psaki, said on Wednesday the US was "deeply disturbed" by the case and called on Khartoum to respect the right to freedom of religion. The Canadian and Dutch governments have also expressed concern.

The UN has also urged Sudan to adhere to international law. "We are concerned about the physical and mental wellbeing of Ms Ibrahim, who is in her eighth month of pregnancy, and also of her 20-month-old son, who is detained with her at the Omdurman women's prison near Khartoum, reportedly in harsh conditions," said Rupert Colville of the UN Human Rights Office in Geneva.

Amnesty said: "The fact that a woman has been sentenced to death for her religious choice, and to flogging for being married to a man of an allegedly different religion, is appalling and abhorrent." Wani, who has a biochemical engineering degree and suffers from chronic health problems, because of the trauma of separation, became a US citizen in 2005. He and Ibrahim met in Khartoum, and were married there in 2012. Wani had taken steps to bring Ibrahim to join him in the US.

Last year, a relative accused Ibrahim of adultery, saying her marriage to a Christian was invalid. The authorities later added the charge of apostasy. Gabriel Wani, Daniel's brother, who also lives in Manchester, New Hampshire, said Ibrahim was in poor physical shape. "Meriam is in a bad condition, she is eight months pregnant. She's needing proper medical attention and she needs medical supplies. She's bleeding and nothing is being done," he told the Daily Mail.

"She needs to eat well but she is just getting the prison food. When she had her first child it was a very difficult birth, she lost a lot of blood. She is shocked to be shackled with her toddler but it isn't happening. We are praying for a miracle."

#### [Call for Applications for the Nomination of Expert Members to Serve on the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV and Those at Risk, Vulnerable to and Affected by HIV](#)



There is currently an opening for an expert member of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV and Those at Risk, Vulnerable to and Affected by HIV. Hence, the Commission is inviting nominations from Member States of the African Union, National Human Rights Institutions, and Non-Governmental Organizations and other interested individuals and institutions.

At its 47th Ordinary Session held from 12 to 26 May 2010 in Banjul, The Gambia, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (Commission) adopted Resolution ACHPR/Res.163 (XLVII) 10 establishing a Committee on the Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV and Those at Risk, Vulnerable to and Affected by HIV.

The Committee is currently composed of three members by the Commission and six expert members. Its mandate is as follows:

- To seek, request, receive, analyze and respond to reliable information from credible sources including individuals, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations, State Parties, on the situation and rights of people living with HIV and those at risk;
- To undertake fact-finding missions, where necessary, to investigate, verify and make conclusions and recommendations regarding allegations of human rights violations;
- To engage State Parties and non-state actors on their responsibilities to respect the rights of people living with HIV and those proven to be vulnerable to these infections;
- To engage State Parties and their responsibilities to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of people living with HIV and those at risk;
- To recommend concrete and effective strategies to better protect the rights of people living with HIV and those at risk;
- To integrate a gender perspective and give special attention to persons belonging to vulnerable groups, including women, children, sex workers, migrants, men having sex with men, intravenous drug users and prisoners, who are at risk;
- To report regularly to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Nominees must be nationals of member states of the African Union and are required to have expertise as well as demonstrable experience in issues surrounding the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular relating to the protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV and those at risk, Vulnerable to and Affected by HIV.

Applications should be accompanied by a cover letter, a detailed curriculum vitae and any other relevant document, and should be received at the Secretariat of the Commission at the latest by 8 July 2014.

Applications should be sent by email to: [ou-banjul@africa-union.org](mailto:ou-banjul@africa-union.org) or [africancommission@yahoo.com](mailto:africancommission@yahoo.com) or by courier to the following address:

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights  
31 Bijilo Annex Layout, Kombi North District, Western Region  
P. O. Box 673  
Banjul, The Gambia

#### [ICPA: Call for Papers 2014](#)



The ICPA Programme Committee invites individuals, agencies and organizations interested in presenting papers at the Association's 2014 Annual Conference to submit ideas for consideration. The theme of the organization's 16th Annual Conference is "From Incarceration to Reintegration: Change with a Purpose".

The conference will be hosted by the Namibian Correctional Service and held in the lovely and modern city of Windhoek, Namibia from October 26-31, 2014. This is the second time that ICPA will be holding its Annual Conference in Africa, more than a decade after the first event in Cape Town, South Africa in 2000.

The theme of the Conference was chosen specifically to highlight the considerations that have been made in the last decade in reforming and transforming corrections in Africa. Professional and modern correctional practices are being increasingly adopted to create a humane correctional process that focuses more on addressing offender needs for reintegration rather than only rights, punitive responses to crime. Namibia is a case in point but other countries in Africa have made similar strides towards advancing change with a purpose within their criminal justice and correctional systems.

With the conference theme in mind, the Programme Committee welcomes, in particular, proposals for presentations from African correctional professionals, the non-governmental sector, justice officials, various international agencies and/or consultants working in Africa or other developing nations, the private sector, scholars and academics interested in crime and justice issues, and any other interested individuals. Proposals are welcomed for individual papers, workshops or thematic symposia and panel presentations. The focus should be on any and all efforts for creating 'change with a purpose' within a correctional jurisdiction.

### TOPICS

The ICPA Conference is the foremost international gathering for correctional professionals and practitioners from the main 'Plenary' sessions at the conference. The selection will be based on relevance to the conference topic, breadth of innovative practice and evidence of a strong research/empirical base. Preference will be given to those proposals that are developed with across agency or across-jurisdiction collaboration.

The ICPA will reply to the primary author notifying him or her of the final decision. If your abstract is accepted you will be contacted for more information if necessary.

### SUBMISSION

The closing date for submissions is 15th July 2014.

Any questions or further information can be obtained from the Programme Committee via email at [contact@cpa.org](mailto:contact@cpa.org)

Further Enquiries and Submissions are to be made in English using the ICPA online form available at: <https://www.etouches.com/eselect/icpa-namibia>

#### [Feature Article : Remembering The Children Of African Prisoners On May 27](#)

The number of children with parents in prison is increasing in many countries worldwide. Theory and qualitative research suggest that parental imprisonment might contribute to child antisocial behavior and mental health problems. There are five major categories of risks faced by the children of incarcerated parents: the risk of deprivation of basic necessities and opportunities; the risk of danger of secondary victimization and depersonalization; the risk of deterioration of overall situation of a child; the risk of distance from incarcerated parent; and the risk of descent into antisocial behavior.

When parents are incarcerated from their children there is usually the tendency for the children to be left in the care of the second parent or extended family members. In patriarchal societies, there is a high probability for the men to be the major income earners in the home. Men account for the largest percentage of inmate population within the continent while the population of incarcerated women in Africa falls between 1 and 6 percent of the total population. The imprisonment of breadwinners of a home automatically impacts the standard of living of the children. Their guardians are often far from the home to basic necessities like food, shelter and water, and will also affect that child's access to quality education and the amenities necessary for his or her development. When these children are left in the care of an extended family member or guardian, who guarantees the safety and respect for the rights of these children while in their care? Does the Court take impromptu visits by the State Welfare department to the residences of these guardians into consideration? Is there an effective data management system in place to ensure that the development of these children is not only monitored but that at the expiration of their parent's sentence, the family will be re-united? Even upon the conviction or sentencing of the parent, is there a family member available to provide explanations to the child on the implication of the parents imprisonment? Is there a counselor available to ensure that the psychological impacts the imprisonment might have on the child are addressed promptly?

When a State is unable to adequately answer the above stated questions, then there is a very high probability for such children to be at risk of secondary victimization, at the mercy of their guardians and the society at large. The absence of an adequate mechanism that handles the impact of parental incarceration on a child can result in the overall deterioration of that child, especially when he or she is facing financial difficulties, difficulties in visiting the incarcerated parent, educational and behavioral problems at school, or neglect, abuse and victimization. Without an adequate parental protection such children are also highly at risk of being exposed to criminal activities, thereby presenting a vicious cycle that brings additional costs to the society.

The Preamble of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which 52 African States are parties, upheld a provision of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child which states that, "the child, by reason of his physical and mental maturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth"

The United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention has recognized parental incarceration as an "adverse childhood experience" (ACE) which possesses a unique combination of long-term negative and physical health outcomes like obesity, heart disease, diabetes, tobacco use, alcohol use, among others.

It is important to note that:

An estimated 2 million children currently have a parent(s) incarcerated in African prisons.  
527,143 children under 5 years have their parents incarcerated and 24% of incarcerated parents have more than 3 children.  
849,917 children are dependents in households of incarcerated parents at the time of arrest or detention of the caregiver.

With the celebration of Children's Day in Nigeria on 27th May 2014, PRAWA wishes to emphasize that there is need for better state mechanisms for the protection of the rights of such children. When the State in the performance of its duties of administering justice, imprisons an offender who is a parent as a first or only option, it automatically takes on the responsibility for the welfare of the children who will be affected by this action. As her former Secretary General of the United Nations—Kofi Annan once said "There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want — and that they can grow up in peace."



### PUBLICATION

#### [Manual on Human Rights Training and Torture Prevention for the Police](#)

Written by PRAWA

To Download (41 MB, PDF) [Click](#)

Many more publications and documentary are coming up soonest for download or watch.

#### [World Pre-Trial Remand Imprisonment List](#)

(second edition) Written by Roy Malcolm

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To Download (43 KB, MS) [Click](#)

All PRAWA publications are available for download at the PRAWA website <http://www.prawa.org/>  
Contact: [communication@prawa.org](mailto:communication@prawa.org).