

www.prawa.org

News Headlines:

PRAWA LAUNCHES 24/7 HELP LINES FOR TORTURE VICTIMS AND URGES FG TO AMEND THE ANTI TORTURE ACT TO ACCOMMODATE REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS

ABIA STATE HOLDS ITS QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE MONITORING COMMITTEE.

VIRTUAL TRAINING FOR MAGISTRATES AND NON-CUSTODIAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ON EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF NON CUSTODIAL MEASURES IN THE FCT

STATISTICS REVEAL CANNABIS AS THE MOST TRAFFICKED DRUG IN NIGERIA

PRAWA CELEBRATES THE INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF TORTURE VICTIMS (26 JUNE)

**JUNE 26 ACTIVITIES PICTURE GALLERY
CORRECTIONAL STAFF COLLEGE
PLAYS HOST TO CGC**



PRAWA LAUNCHES 24/7 HELP LINES FOR TORTURE VICTIMS AND URGES FG TO AMEND THE ANTI TORTURE ACT TO ACCOMMODATE REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS

As part of its week long activities set out to mark the UN international day in support of torture victims, PRAWA in a press statement made by its deputy director Mrs. Ogechi Ogu on the 25th of June, 2020 called on the Federal Government to amend the Anti-torture Act to provide for rehabilitation for torture victims and include rehabilitation in the standard operating guideline for the implementation of the existing law on torture.

Owing to the fact that all victims of torture have an explicit right to Rehabilitation under Article 14 of the United Nations Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment she stressed that rehabilitation is important intervention needed for the restoration of victims of torture to normal life which is missing in the Nigerian legislation.

She further urged on the government to among other things: "Provide an efficient and effective framework for the enforcement of the anti-torture law and the laws against police brutality; Partner with relevant international and national bodies such as the National Human Rights Commission in order to support torture victims and provide rehabilitation services; Develop a case management system of data accounting for numbers of tortured victims within police detention

facilities and other detention facilities; and Ensure that the National Preventive Mechanism is functioning in accordance with the requirements of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT).

She also made a call for the establishment of a database of all persons in detention in all places of detention in Nigeria and that all places of detention

should be made accessible for independent monitoring and oversight.

Also PRAWA on its part and in furtherance to its mission and vision statement being committed to the provision of support to torture victims launched 24/7 help lines for trauma counseling and provision of other psychological support to torture victims/survivors.

ABIA STATE

HOLDS ITS QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE MONITORING COMMITTEE.



The Administration of criminal justice monitoring committee for Abia State set up to ensure the effective and efficient application of the ACJL of which the Executive Director of PRAWA Dr. Uju Agomoh is a member held its quarterly meeting on Tuesday the 16th of June, 2020. Issues discussed during the committee meeting include: Review of the outcome of the February 12th 2020 workshop for Magistrates of Abia State Judiciary, Isolation of unimplemented proposals from the past meetings, Proposal for the provision of Remand homes in Abia State in line with the provisions of Section 437 ACJL, 2017, Proposal for legislative amendment of the section 446 of ACJL, 2017 to limit supervision of non-custodial offenders to Officers of Nigeria Correctional Service amongst others.

VIRTUAL TRAINING FOR MAGISTRATES AND NON-CUSTODIAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ON EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF NON CUSTODIAL MEASURES IN THE FCT

One of the key objectives of the Effective Implementation of Non - Custodial Measures in Nigeria Project implemented by PRAWA with funding of European Union and support of British Council and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Project (RoLAC) is Training and Capacity Building of Operators/Supervisors of non-custodial measures in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). In furtherance of this objective, PRAWA organized virtual capacity building session for magistrates and Non- custodial officers of the Nigerian Correctional Service FCT on 25th June, 2020. The focus of the training is on the role of the court and that of the correctional service in the effective implementation of non-custodial sentences in Nigeria.

Participants at the training were presented with lessons from the Republic of Ireland by the former Director Irish Probation Service, Vivien Geiran likewise a paper on the Nigerian Correctional Service Act 2019 and the Implementation of non-custodial sentences in Nigeria- context, issues and potentials by the Executive Director of PRAWA Dr. Uju Agomoh.





newsletter

June 2020

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY IN
SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE

THE TORTURE'S GOAL IS TO INSTILL A SENSE OF POWERLESSNESS AND TERROR,
BOTH IN ITS VICTIMS AND IN SOCIETY AT LARGE. FOR OUR COLLECTIVE HEALING
HELP CORRECT A SURVIVOR TO A COUNSELOR TODAY.

CALL THE FOLLOWING PRAWA TOLL FREE LINES 09055562276, 09055562656,
09055562449, 09055562323, 09055562674, 09055563445, 09055562826,

#AfricaSayNoToTorture
#EndTortureNow
#SpeakOut
#SupportToVictimsOfTorture
#StopTorture
#NoToTorture



PRAWA CELEBRATES THE INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF TORTURE VICTIMS (26 JUNE)



The International day for the support of Torture Victims is celebrated annually on 26th June. In line with the Vision and Mission of PRAWA and the Rehabilitation component of its work PRAWA organized a week long activities to commemorate this day beginning from the 22nd of June, 2020.

Several activities carried out by PRAWA in commemoration of the 2020 UN International Day of Support to Torture Victims include,

- Sensitization and awareness campaign on Torture in all PRAWA office locations (Abuja, Enugu, Kano and Lagos on the 22nd and 23rd of June, 2020;
- Media engagements on Solid FM in Enugu, Freedom radio in Kano, and Arise News;
- Panel discussions on Social Media; Interview Sessions with Survivors of torture;

On the 24th of June, Virtual Training on Trauma Counselling for Volunteer Psychologists and Counsellors this was done in partnership with Global Justice & Resource Center USA, International Federation for Psychotherapy (IFP) Center and with support from International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) The virtual training sought to provide some capacity building sessions for counselors and psychologists in the areas of mental health assessment, trauma counseling and other psychological therapies and documentation. The speakers include Prof. Peter Ebigo former IRCT Independent Expert, Dr. John Gannon

On the 25th of June, 2020 Online Panel for Civil Society Organisations on torture prevention and rehabilitation of torture victims on prevention of torture and provision of support to torture victims- effective strategies for civil

society organisations organized by CSO Forum and PRAWA in partnership with the National Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International, Avocats sans frontières Franc (Lawyers without Borders). Issues discussed include effective legal aid to victims of torture by Angela Uwandu of Avocats sans frontières France (lawyers without borders), the importance of proper documentation and evidence gathering by Osai Ojigbo Country Director Amnesty International Nigeria. There was also a public presentation and public launching of IEC Posters on torture by the executive secretary of the NHRC as well as the unveiling of helplines and email address for trauma counseling for torture victims, inmates, ex-inmates, youth-at-risk and their families. On the 26th of June a Webinar organized in Partnership with Independent Medico Legal Unit (IMLU) Kenya and International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) for private practitioners, civil society organisations, NGOs, government agencies and other stakeholders on Preventing and Responding to Torture and Ill-treatment During COVID 19 Pandemic: Interventions, Lessons and Challenges issues discussed here include global normative framework, regional normative framework, global experiences of IRCT Member Centres during COVID-19 and some country case studies situation, institutional experiences in monitoring and documenting torture and ill-treatment, and supporting victims and survivor's during the Covid 19 pandemic, challenges, lessons and recommendations. The speakers include Commissioner Lawrence Mute Board Member UNFVT, Li Fung Senior Human Rights Adviser OHCHR, Lisa Henry Secretary General, IRCT, Kelvin Mwangi Redress Kenya, Ogechi Ogu PRAWA Nigeria, Blessing Nyamaropa of Zimbabwe lawyers for Human Rights and Dr. Uju Agomoh Executive Director PRAWA who moderated the session.

irct
International Rescue Committee
Council for Refugees

GLOBAL IMPACT 2019

- 57071** SURVIVORS OF TORTURE SUPPORTED BY
- 4311** HEALTH PERSONNEL
- 52%** OF SURVIVORS LIVE IN POVERTY
- 19%** HAVE SUFFERED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
- 2102** SURVIVORS SELF IDENTIFY AS LGBTQI



HEROIN Prescription Risk PILLS Cocaine Alcohol Opioid MEDICATION ADDICTION DEPENDENCE Death RISK Overdose Marijuana Cocaine

STATISTICS REVEALS CANNABIS AS THE MOST TRAFFICKED DRUG IN NIGERIA

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as 'World Drug Day', is also celebrated annually on 26 June. The theme of World Drug Day 2020 is "Better Knowledge for Better Care."

It has been stated that the field of addressing drug problems have been 'plagued' by misinformation of many kinds. This year's theme therefore aimed at improving the understanding of the world drug problem and at fostering greater international cooperation for countering its impact on health, governance and security.

In Nigeria, Statistics have revealed, cannabis (marijuana), as the most used and trafficked substance by Nigerians.

So far, events have revealed that the

lockdown and restriction on interstate movement, due to the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging the world, did not stop those who indulge in the illicit business from trafficking them to other states of the country.

For instance, operatives of the anti-narcotic agency apprehended 6,465.23 of Cannabis which were been conveyed from Kano to Kogi. Another seizure of 3, 962 kilograms of Cannabis was made en route Kano at Benue; another seizure of 1, 960 kilograms of Cannabis was made in Edo. Also, 621. 0857 kilograms of cannabis was recovered in Imo and 267.123 kilograms of Cannabis in Abia state, all during the lockdown period.

In its bid to discharge its constitutional responsibility of

eradicating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA disclosed that 9,444 persons were arrested for drug-related offences in the year ending 2019. Out of this figure, 584 offenders were arrested in Lagos State alone. So far, the agency said it had convicted 1,195 persons while 795 drug dependants were counseled during the period under review. A total of 612, 903.484 kilograms of drugs, out of which Cannabis was 310.1 tons, were recovered.

Read more at:

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/06/cannabis-most-trafficked-drug-in-nigeria-%e2%80%95-report/>

CORRECTIONAL STAFF COLLEGE PLAYS HOST TO CGC

The Controller General of Nigerian Correctional Service, Ja'afaru Ahmed payed a one day working visit to the cadets undergoing basic course

at the Correctional Staff college, Kaduna (CSCK), for an interactive session. The Controller General congratulated the cadets for being the first the new name and Act, some of them will be posted to Non - Custodial services while others will be posted to Custodial services, and it shall be rotational after every three (3) years.

The Controller General further explained to the cadets the importance of the new Act to the service, where he stated that the Correctional service now has the right to reject an inmate and refuse admission once the laid down conditions or rules are not met which was not possible in the repealed prisons act. He said we now also have the right to present a condemned criminal for probation after serving a long sentence which was not possible in the old Act.

On the issue of welfare, the Controller General stated that the Correctional Welfare Insurance Scheme (CWIS), Correctional



Cooperative Society (COCOS), has been created to help give succour to staff after retirement. And that trainee's shall receive their training allowances after the course.

Amongst his many achievements, Jaafaru Ahmad mentioned that over 450 vehicles have been purchased for the smooth running of the service at various state commands since 2016. As inmates were being carried in rickety cars for court duties before his assumption into office as the Controller General.

There are now availability of drugs and good health care services for the inmates, Infrastructural development ongoing across the six geopolitical zones, modern Custodial Centres are being constructed at Abuja, Kano and Rivers state. Hostels for training of staff in the Correctional Staff college is almost completed. Construction and rehabilitation of staff quarters are also in progress.

Finally, in his remark, the Controller General noted that the service uniform has been changed and will

be launched in due time. He also added that the cadets will be passing out with new ceremonial wears. He charged the cadets to take their job seriously, be disciplined and become good ambassadors of the service.

In response, the commandant of the prestigious Staff College ACG Muhammad Ibrahim Hussein, lauded the CGC Jaafaru Ahmad for his tireless efforts towards transforming the service and ensuring the welfare and total outlook of the service.

The commandant recalled that the course commenced on 13th January with 315 course participants from various commands and have been undergoing physical, mental and intellectual training in the college. He commended the cadets on training for their support, show of discipline and willingness to learn.

He prayed for God to grant the CGC more wisdom and grace to do more, and for God to grant them journey mercies back to Abuja.

E-Newsletter reported by
Chioma Anuna-Ogbo Esq.

