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Prisons

> Brazil's management model > Malawi's call for help > South Africa's peer counsellors

perspectives

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View from a prison cell in São Paulo, Brazil



Editorial



Prisons are the focus of the second issue of *Perspectives*. The landmark **United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners**, adopted in 1955, set out what Member States have agreed are best practices in criminal justice. They stipulate that prisoners have the right to be treated with respect and dignity, to be separated according to their age and the gravity of their offence, to have access to health and medical care, to receive decent food, and much more.

The reality is that prison conditions for the more than 9 million people currently detained worldwide vary considerably from country to country. Sometimes governments are unwilling to try to live up to international prison standards, but more often they do not have the capacity or resources to do so.

States are responsible for ensuring that detainees—like all other citizens—are not denied their fundamental rights. United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice principles provide additional guidance to states. UNODC experts in Vienna and in the field assist governments with criminal justice reform.

In this issue, **Carolina Gomma de Azevedo** of UNODC in Brazil writes about an innovative programme under which the Brazilian government and NGOs work together in managing prisons and rehabilitating offenders. **Raggie Johansen** travels to South Africa and visits Pretoria Central Prison, where inmates show their commitment to becoming peer drug counsellors upon their release. She also explores the topic of HIV/AIDS among vulnerable groups, including prison inmates.

In an interview, *New York Times* photojournalist **João Silva** tells us in words and pictures about his work as a war photographer and about the chronically overcrowded prison facilities he documented in Malawi.

In this issue, we also look at successful approaches to preventing drug abuse and crime among young people, and bid farewell to former UNODC Deputy Executive Director **Sumru Noyan**, who reflects on her 12 years with the Office.

Norha Restrepo
Editor

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BRAZIL

Reforming prison management

By Carolina Gomma de Azevedo



The UNODC Regional Office for Brazil and the South Cone cooperates with Governments in combating organized crime and corruption and in preventing drug abuse and HIV infection. In 2007, UNODC will also work more closely with the Brazilian Government's National Health Policy for Prisons with a view to improving detainees' access to medical services and basic treatment.

UNODC's Carolina Gomma de Azevedo has been watching closely an innovative prison management programme in Brazil that is in line with United Nations criminal justice standards and norms. As the custodian of these international instruments, UNODC promotes the humane treatment of detainees, the improvement of prison conditions and the use of alternatives to incarceration.

When hundreds of high-risk prisoners from the state of São Paulo in Brazil were transferred to maximum-security jails in May 2006, leaders of the notorious prison gang First Command of the Capital ordered their followers to rebel. The powerful gang, one of the largest criminal organizations in the country, led simultaneous riots in more than half the state's prisons and caused mayhem on the streets of the city of São Paulo and its metropolitan area. Days of unrest left 140 people dead, hundreds injured, and dozens of police stations, banks, shops and buses destroyed.

It was not the first time, nor would it be the last, that criminal groups working from prison clashed with state authorities, with violence spilling over to the general population. Once again, a rebellion — the worst ever — exposed the penitentiary system's weaknesses: corruption, underfunding and overcrowding.

There are 131,000 people in the São Paulo prison system and every month the number increases by 1,000. Most of them are low- or medium-risk offenders who

are forced to share cells with violent professional criminals. Clearly, living in such a hostile environment is hardly conducive to the offenders' successful reintegration into society.

Human rights first

Not all prisons in São Paulo state face the same challenges and not all are run in the same way: 22 out of a total of 144 facilities are managed by the state in partnership with NGOs. In these centres, the state remains in charge of security and discipline while NGOs are responsible for prison administration and the inmates' welfare.

Within the co-management model, "the state should exercise effective oversight and ensure the services provided to detainees are adequate," says Maurício Kuehne, the Director-General of the National Penitentiary Department (DEPEN).

Professional criminals with a violent history are not allowed at the jointly managed centres.

Inmates are provided with three meals a day, medical and psychological attention, legal assistance, vocational training and educational programmes. They are also encouraged to develop the skills and resources necessary to become law-abiding citizens upon release.

These and other measures introduced at the centres are in line with international standards on the treatment of prisoners and the management of institutions. By contrast, despite Government attempts to improve conditions, regular facilities are often unable to guarantee detainees their fundamental human rights.

Facilities in the co-administration programme stand out for other reasons. "Their resocialization and rehabilitation services are quite innovative in Brazil," says Dr. Fiona Macaulay, lecturer at the Department of Peace Studies at Britain's University of Bradford and former researcher for Amnesty International. She has not seen a similar partnership model anywhere else in the world. According to Dr. Macaulay, who has done extensive research on the Brazilian criminal justice system, NGO staff taking part in this programme are passionate about their work and often bring previous experience as human rights advocates and social workers.

Dr. Nagashi Furukawa, the man who started this prison management model in 1996, believes that everyone benefits from the stronger bonds forged between the community and the prisoners. While he was a juvenile court judge in the city of Bragança Paulista, he worked with people from the community in preventing drug use, violence and health problems among vulnerable groups. "I always listened to what they had to say," he recalls. "And we always had good results."

The prison management alliance between civil society and the state was formalized in January 1996. The Bragança Paulista municipality trained people to start an NGO, which then signed a contract with the city's Public Security Department to manage its penitentiary.

Photo left: Inmates share communal cells at the Female Resocialization Centre in São Jose do Rio Preto, one of 22 prisons managed by the state in partnership with local NGOs.

When Dr. Furukawa was appointed São Paulo State Secretary for Prison Administration in 1999, he brought the idea along with him and extended it to other prisons.

All the NGOs have close ties with the local community.

Dr. Furukawa says civil society provides better treatment and care for inmates than the state does, improving their chances of giving up crime when they are released. “The rate of reoffending in regular prisons in São Paulo state is as high as 58 per cent. Under the resocialization centre model it is between 3 and 15 per cent.”

Making ends meet

The Brazilian co-management model also tackles the problem of under-funding. Citing national data, Macaulay says that state-run prisons cost US\$ 458 a month per prisoner, and NGO-run prisons up to \$229. This is largely because, as non-profit organizations, NGOs save on taxes, procurement and contractual services.

jail. “I visited the centre in Jaú [outside São Paulo], where prisoners and their families were learning to produce footwear, and the prisoners were able to work after completing their sentences,” says Macaulay.

Female Resocialization Centre in São José do Rio Preto

One of the 22 jointly managed centres currently operating in São Paulo is a small custodial facility in the city of São José do Rio Preto that houses up to 210 female inmates. Over 70 per cent of the women here were convicted of drug trafficking. The average age of detainees is 31.

The São José do Rio Preto centre has been managed by the state and the Group to Protect People Living with AIDS (known by its Portuguese acronym GADA) since 2004. They have worked together before. GADA works with the national and municipal HIV/AIDS programmes and with UNODC to prevent drug use and HIV infection.

Since its foundation in 1993, the organization has grown considerably, attracting increasing community

“ I know I cannot fix the past, but I can improve my future. Today I know I can rebuild my life without repeating old mistakes.”

Ana, 24, inmate at the Female Resocialization Centre in São José do Rio Preto

Some cases of mismanagement have been identified, but DEPEN’s Maurício Kuehne says these do not invalidate the model. “I cannot undermine the model because one or other NGO did not work out,” he says.

Jointly managed detention facilities have helped to make ends meet by involving the private sector. In 2005, approximately 8,000 prisoners worked from jail for private companies in São Paulo, the largest and richest state in the country.

Several resocialization centres have employment programmes. In Araraquara, for example, detainees work for office furniture suppliers, pet shops, clothing manufacturers, recycling plants and construction companies. In Avaré, they produce toys, tourism maps, footballs and uniforms. In São José dos Campos, female detainees assemble pneumatic valves for industrial and transportation companies. In São José do Rio Preto, inmates sew children’s and women’s clothes.

Employers pay inmates 75 per cent of the minimum wage and the resocialization institutions the remaining 25 per cent, which the centres use to cover expenses and reinvest in the programme.

Although the pay is not great, many inmates prefer to earn some money rather than none at all so they can help their families and buy essential products for themselves. An additional incentive is that sentences are reduced by one day for every three days of work. Some companies even hire the best upon their release from

involvement and broadening the scope of its work. “We were once an NGO for people living with HIV, now we are an NGO for vulnerable populations,” explains Julio Caetano Figueiredo, director and founder of GADA. Sex workers, adolescents, young women and inmates are among the groups they assist mainly through peer-to-peer education.

In its management of the female penal institution in São José do Rio Preto, GADA relies on the extensive experience it has gained running community-based projects. The organization’s staff and volunteers care for inmates in the same way they do for people living with HIV/AIDS. Just as they have always looked for the persons behind the term “HIV-positive,” they now refuse to see individuals merely as “offenders” but, rather, as human beings who deserve respect and often need special attention.

The detainees testify to the success of this approach. Like other inmates, 24-year-old Ana spent time in a regular prison before being moved to this resocialization centre, which she prefers: “I feel that I have a real opportunity to change here. I know I cannot fix the past, but I can improve my future. Today I know I can rebuild my life without repeating old mistakes.”

Most inmates say they receive excellent treatment in São José do Rio Preto. The time does not hang too heavily as they are always involved in one activity or another — working, studying, gardening or exercising.



Women in São José do Rio Preto pack underwear as part of the penitentiary's employment programme. The hall also serves as a classroom.

Alice's schedule illustrates how busy inmates are. Every morning, she showers, puts on her yellow overalls and joins the others for breakfast. Once the cafeteria has been cleaned up, it becomes the classroom where the women conduct their primary school studies. Alice then goes to work, sewing kids' clothes for export. The 35-year-old woman is serving a six-year term for drug trafficking.

Although each prisoner costs \$150 a month or about \$5 a day, the institution can still afford to provide good quality food and to have a nutritionist on board. All prisoners have their own bed and share rooms with no more than 11 other women. Some work at the centre

as assistants to doctors, dentists and teachers while others help out in the kitchen. Additional programmes include medical and psychological services, education and paid work.

Six companies have signed agreements with the female centre to employ inmates. These include clothing manufacturers Yellow Bug, which produces children's clothes for export to Great Britain, and Loriê, which produces women's underwear that is sold in Brazil, Chile and the United States.

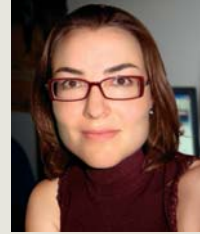
Inmates earn approximately \$165 per month, enough to supplement their families' income and buy personal items available at cost prices in the prison shop.

The shop was opened to minimize the time and costs of inspecting the goods female prisoners receive from visitors.

Alternatives to imprisonment

São Paulo has an incarceration rate of 389 detainees per 100,000 inhabitants, well above the national average of 193, partly because courts rarely give non-custodial sentences. Removing the non-violent people from jail would help to reduce over-crowding in mainstream prisons. “Imprisonment is not the solution to all security problems,” says DEPEN chief Kuhne.

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For more information, please visit www.unodc.org.br

To download criminal justice tools and handbooks developed by UNODC to assist Member States in implementing UN standards and norms, please go to http://www.unodc.org/criminal_justice_tools.html

In their paintings, inmates express their love and longing for family. Throughout the rehabilitation process, they are encouraged to develop stronger bonds with their families and communities.





ANA, 24

At the age of 11, I started working as a prostitute. Three years later, I got pregnant from an unknown father. So I did not think twice when I met a man who offered both of us a home. Things got worse when, during my pregnancy, I found out I was HIV-positive. My husband, who was addicted to drugs, beat me up a lot. He was later imprisoned. Since I was unemployed, lacked education and had two kids to feed, I went back to prostitution. Although I hated it, I could not find any other way to survive.



Ana

My problems and low self-esteem pushed me to alcohol. I drank so much that I lost the pleasure of living. Once when I was completely drunk, I got into a fight with a young man. Without thinking, I shot the man. And although I only wanted to scare him, he is now a quadriplegic. I went to trial and was sentenced to 14 years in prison. Only then, in court, did I realize the seriousness of what I had done and how sad my destiny would be from that moment on.

In prison, I felt like my life had ended. All I wanted was for death to come and save me. I knew I had to pay for my crime but, in that place, I would not have survived. I saw daily fights and riots, and was treated like an animal. I decided to write a letter to the Female Resocialization Centre in São José do Rio Preto, sharing my story and asking them to take me in. And they did. When I got to the centre, it felt like heaven. Here I can study and work, and I receive good food and health care. There is a real opportunity to change here. I know I cannot fix the past, but I can improve my future. Today I know I can rebuild my life without repeating old mistakes.

ALICE, 35

In 2003, I moved in with a 28-year-old guy I had fallen for a few months before. It was a stable relationship that lasted for a year and a half.

This man was addicted to drugs and started selling them. In the beginning, I accepted the situation because I was in love. However, it did bother me. He promised to stop and asked for my help, but he never really changed. When I decided to end the



Alice

relationship, he stabbed me five times in the face, arms and head. To save my life, I pretended to be dead. Despite several operations, the effects are still with me.

Out of financial necessity, I started dealing drugs in 2005. That year, the police caught me selling and put me in jail. I am now serving a six-year sentence in a resocialization centre.

Despite everything that has happened, I am psychologically well. I work, study and learn to live with my limitations. I am paying for my crime, hoping for my freedom and a new life. I also long for justice to prevail because the man who attacked me is still free. He is not paying for the mistakes he has made.

VITÓRIA, 31

I come from a very poor family. Growing up, we were always hungry. My mother is addicted to alcohol and drugs. She lives on the streets, begging for change to survive. I have four brothers who are also addicted to drugs.

When I was 12, an old guy bought some beers for my mom and, while she drank, he told her that he would take me for a walk. He beat me up and raped me. Only God knows how I feel when I think about this.

By the age of 15, I was a single mother with a daughter. Then I met a young man and thought I had found happiness. We had three kids and lived in peace for five years, until the beatings started. Once, he hit me in the mouth with a tile and I lost my front teeth.

Later, he became a drug dealer. To my surprise, when the police arrived at our home, he told them the drugs were mine. I was sentenced to three years in prison. When I got out of jail a year and a half later, I took my kids, who were with him at the time, and went to live with my mother in a shantytown. Since I could not find a decent job, I started dealing drugs. Soon, I was arrested again and my kids went to a shelter. I haven't seen my kids in a year now, and it hurts too much.

INTERVIEW

“Never forget the people we have to help”

By Preeta Bannerjee

Sumru Noyan, the most senior woman in UNODC for the last 12 years, stepped down in November 2006 as Director of Operations and Deputy Executive Director. A career diplomat, Ms Noyan holds the title of Ambassador in her native Turkey. After joining the foreign ministry in Ankara, she held a number of diplomatic postings, including in Belgrade, Paris and Düsseldorf, before joining UNODC.

As Director of Operations, she was responsible for coordinating the activities of the 21 UNODC field offices around the world and the work of a team of specialist staff in Vienna covering everything from human trafficking to money-laundering and corruption. On the eve of her departure from the Office, she reflected on her experiences in an interview with *Perspectives*.

Helping put UNODC issues on the global agenda

Sumru Noyan raised international awareness on HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users and in prisons. In 1999, she worked to make UNODC the seventh co-sponsoring organization of UNAIDS. Since then, UNODC has grown to become the lead agency in the UNAIDS family on HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users and in prisons. “We started with a \$140,000 programme, and now we have a programme worth around \$100 million globally,” she said.

UNODC is expanding its focus to finding ways to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS in prisons and in situations of human trafficking. “It is remarkable that we have managed to achieve such a large programme in less than 10 years. Now we have 40 field advisers worldwide, in Russia, the Baltic countries, Romania,

Central and South-East Asia, as well as a programme in Costa Rica for HIV and prison issues.”

“The problem is also that in many countries, people do not know what is happening in prisons. So UNODC helps to establish the facts. Law enforcement officers and prison guards have to be trained in how to treat people. Sometimes they do not even know that they should conduct HIV testing in prisons,” Ms Noyan said.

In 2006, she helped bring about the creation of the Central Asian Regional Information and Co-ordination Centre (CARICC), an initiative that helps countries in the region, as well as Russia and Azerbaijan, share intelligence on the fight against illicit drugs. This takes on additional importance following the surge in opium production in Afghanistan in 2006.

“The region previously had no institutions to counter the grave threat of drug trafficking,” Ms Noyan says. “Thanks to CARICC, countries will share information and assist each other. They will run it, not us.” CARICC will be based in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Experiences from the field

Sumru Noyan said she tried hard throughout her UNODC career not to lose sight of the people

whom the Office was set up to help. Her numerous field trips have left memories of some poignant moments.

“One story particularly opened my eyes to the tragedy of human trafficking, violence against women and prostitution,” she recalled. “On the Myanmar-Thailand border, I saw several beautiful houses in a very poor village. I asked the chief of police, to whom did they belong? He told me that, every year, traffickers from neighbouring countries come to the village to pick up some of the most beautiful girls aged 10 to 15. They buy them from their families and take them away. After exploiting the girls for some years, they send them back home at the age of 18 to 19. The girls are rich now, they can feed their families and build these houses. But they also return with HIV/AIDS, morally and physically finished.”

“In another country, I was faced with an unusually blatant case of corruption when I was taken to a mobile lab to see how opium had been seized. Accompanying me was an expert who was testing samples. He found that the seizures were not pure in quality. To my great surprise, a law enforcement officer took a kilo of opium from his pocket to demonstrate to us how pure opium should be! I knew then that we had an uphill battle on our hands.”

Fighting for gender equality

Sumru Noyan worked hard to instil gender sensitivity in UNODC's field work.

"Women work twice as hard to gain recognition. I have tried to prepare the ground for qualified women to benefit from our programmes by creating livelihoods in small villages because, in many cases, it is women who support the family. We have established guidelines on gender mainstreaming in alternative development."

"Our programmes dealing with witness protection and victim support are really helping women," she added.

Ms Noyan is pleased that women now account for around 30 per cent of staff at the Turkish foreign service, compared with the tiny handful when she joined. But she believes much remains to be done both in national governments and in the United Nations as a whole.

"When I arrived at UNODC as Chief of Operations, I felt the men wanted a woman in the Office but not as a real colleague." She built good relations with her senior colleagues and always tried to ensure that competent women in UNODC were recognized and rewarded.

Tasks and resources: a glaring disconnect

Ms Noyan is convinced that UNODC has a bright future ahead, with its key issues—drugs, crime and terrorism—commanding increasing attention at the top level in Member States.

But she believes that the Office, which relies on voluntary contributions for around 90 per cent of its



Sumru Noyan (left) travelled extensively during her 12-year UNODC tenure, including to Central Asia.

annual budget, needs to be put on a much more secure footing as far as funding and resources are concerned.

"We have the biggest mandates in the world but not the resources," she says, "We deal with very dynamic issues, such as drug control, crime prevention, corruption and terrorism, but real support is not forthcoming."

A case in point: the UN Convention against Corruption came into force in December 2005. This is the first global, legally binding instrument against corruption, with innovative measures such as an obligation for countries to return stolen assets to their countries of origin.

"We have to explain to countries what this Convention is about and how to implement it. But how do we stamp out a massive problem like corruption without commensurate resources? We constantly have to go to donors and explain why we need experts and mentors." Ms Noyan believes this reflects a lack of political will on the part of some countries to put truly effective mechanisms in place to combat corruption globally.

She is pleased at the positive response to the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, which came into force in 2003 thanks largely to tireless efforts by UNODC. "It was a real achievement that 124 countries signed it immediately, in December 2000, but the real challenge is implementing the Convention."

Summarizing the role of UNODC as a supplier of expertise to Member States, she said: "Our job is to help countries live up to their commitments. That is too important to forget."

SOUTH AFRICA

Two hours in Pretoria Central

By Raggie Johansen

I pass through the gates of Pretoria Central Prison on a warm, sunny day. I've come to learn more about prisoner rehabilitation work undertaken by Khulisa, a South African NGO working in partnership with UNODC, which trains inmates to become peer drug and HIV counsellors. The programme I am about to observe runs over six months, with sessions once a week.

Security at the prison's Medium C block is tight and I wonder what it must be like at Maximum Security. I pass through a metal detector, am briskly patted down and I have to hand in my camera, my handbag and my UN passport for safekeeping at the entrance gate. All I am allowed to keep is my notebook and pen.

After passing a massive wooden gate and a floor-to-ceiling metal turnstile, where two separate prison warders have to press buttons to allow entry, I see a large, sparse room where approximately 35 prisoners are seated in an oval. They are all wearing uniforms; bright orange for men, dark blue for women. These people are serving long sentences for offences like murder, rape and assault. Most of them are in their twenties but some appear to be in their late forties. I am surprised to see around 15 women in the group as women account for less than three per cent of South Africa's total prison population.

Thabo Morake, the facilitator from Khulisa, introduces me, and the session continues. The discussion,

prison overall. "Now I've realized that it was wrong, that I was spreading a lot of negative energy. I have to change, and as a peer counsellor, I will."

Although the eagerness to change for the better is evident in most participants, they are not naïve. They know full well that many of their fellow inmates are less than receptive to the idea of giving up drugs. "They (other inmates) will kill us if we go out there and tell them to stop," one man said.

But most participants seem to take pride in the training they are receiving, and they want to be successful as peer counsellors. They speak of how the training has boosted their confidence and how they have uncovered talents they never knew they possessed. Their homework assignments include designing a poster about different types of drugs together with a fellow inmate who is not a course participant, so they get real-life practice in educating peers about drugs.

The session I sat in on also covered relations with family members. I expected to hear tales of anger, grief,

“ We can't actually change other people, we can only try to guide them.”

while relatively loose and informal, centres on issues of negative behaviour and how inmates can bring about lasting change in themselves as well as within peer groups.

"I want to live a healthy life and lead by example," says one man, gesticulating eagerly as he speaks. "We can't actually change other people, we can only try to guide them."

I am surprised at the way this group interacts. Although there are wide differences in gender, age, colour and religion, the atmosphere is one of mutual respect, humour and inclusiveness. People feel comfortable speaking freely about deeply personal issues and they do so with great enthusiasm and eloquence.

"You know, mister Thabo, I used to smuggle, sell and smoke a lot of dagga (cannabis)," says one inmate, wearing an oversized red sweatshirt on top of his orange

loneliness and rejection. In fact, most of those who spoke actually reported an improvement in relations.

"My family relationships are stronger now," one woman said. "From inside, I can appreciate that my mum is taking care of my child. And I don't have to see my mother as often as before, which is easier."

A man in his late twenties says that his parents never used to know what he was up to before he was imprisoned. He says he never told his parents he loved them and kept contact to a minimum. However, from prison, he calls his mother every morning. He says he is very happy that his parents keep visiting him and that they don't judge him for the mistakes he has made.

I am conscious that this is a highly select and motivated group of inmates. There are many thousands who will never receive, or even want, this training opportunity. But at the same time, just knowing that it is



UNODC works with the South African authorities and NGOs to help reduce drug abuse and HIV/AIDS in prisons. This photo shows Leeuwkop prison near Johannesburg.

possible for people in the unlikely setting of a prison to willingly undergo profound personal change is very encouraging.

“Hey, didn’t you say you’re a journalist?” one inmate asks me, with a broad smile on his face as Thabo closes the session. “Please go out there and tell the world that South Africa is not only about crime and bad things. There are many of us who want to change and make this country a better place to live.”

On my way out, I stop the only participant who is wearing civilian clothes. I ask her why. She says she was released from prison several weeks ago, but she enjoys

the programme so much that she keeps coming back.

“I’ve learned a lot and it would be a pity to quit now,” she says. “In fact, I want to be like Thabo and work with prisoners myself one day.”

This training has had a positive impact on the lives of many prisoners, who end their sentences not simply as trained drug and HIV peer counsellors, but also with increased confidence and motivation to help others change their lives. UNODC plans to extend the training and peer counselling to benefit an additional 7,000 prisoners.



FACTS

UNITED NATIONS STANDARDS AND NORMS

For over 50 years, the United Nations has explored ways in which criminal justice systems can operate more effectively and humanely. The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the first legal instrument in the vast body of standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, was adopted in 1955. Since then, the organization has developed a set of basic principles covering such areas as the independence of the judiciary, protection of victims, alternatives to imprisonment, police use of force, mutual legal assistance and extradition.

More than 100 countries worldwide have relied on these standards and norms in writing their national laws and policies in crime prevention and criminal justice. Given the vast differences in legal, social and economic conditions worldwide, it is not possible to apply all the provisions everywhere, all the time. However, they represent the minimum conditions which are accepted as suitable by the United Nations.

UNODC promotes and monitors the use of existing standards and norms. This is done through advisory services and technical assistance, training seminars and expert group meetings. UNODC has also developed a number of tools and handbooks to assist states in implementing UN standards and norms.

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners set out what is generally accepted as being good principle and practice in the treatment of prisoners and the management of institutions. Among other measures, it provides for the following:

Rules for general application

Separation of inmates according to categories

There shall be separation between juveniles and adults, civil and criminal offenders, untried and convicted prisoners. As far as possible, men and women shall be detained in separate institutions.

Accommodation

Cells for individuals shall not be used to accommodate more than one person overnight. Communal cells shall only house prisoners who have been carefully selected to share them. All facilities shall meet the requirements regarding health, heating, ventilation, floor space, sanitary facilities and lighting.

Education and recreation

Further education shall be provided to all prisoners. Schooling of illiterates and young prisoners shall be compulsory. As far as possible, the schooling shall be in accordance with the country's educational system so that prisoners can continue their studies without difficulty after being released. Additionally, recreational and cultural activities like sports, music and other hobbies shall be available to all prisoners.

Medical services

At least one qualified medical officer who also has some knowledge of psychiatry shall be available in each institution. Sick prisoners who need special treatment shall be transferred to a civil hospital. In women's institutions there shall be special provision for pre- and post-natal treatment.

Rules applicable to prisoners under sentence

General provisions

The purpose and justification of a sentence of imprisonment or a similar measure is ultimately to protect society against crime. This end can only be achieved if the period of imprisonment is used to ensure that upon the offender's return to society he/she is willing and able to lead a law-abiding and self-supporting life. To this end, the institution shall utilize appropriate and available remedial, educational, moral and spiritual forms of assistance.

Classification and individualization

Prisoners shall be divided into classes in order to facilitate their treatment with a view to their social rehabilitation. Those who may be a bad influence on others shall be separated from the general population.

Treatment

Prisoners' social and criminal history, personal temperament, and physical and mental capacities shall be taken into account. The treatment shall encourage their self-respect and develop their sense of responsibility.

Work

Prisoners under sentence shall be required to work, but this work must not cause distress. The daily and weekly working hours shall be set according to local rules, leave one rest day a week and sufficient time for education and other activities. Work is to be remunerated equitably and prisoners shall have the right to spend part of their earnings on approved articles and to send money home. Vocational training shall be provided for prisoners able to profit from it and especially for young prisoners.

ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

International instruments on crime prevention and criminal justice also call for examining alternatives to incarceration. If they are planned and used appropriately, these non-custodial measures reduce human rights violations, save resources and are generally more effective than imprisonment in reducing recidivism. Fines, community service, probation, house arrest and other non-custodial measures enable the authorities to adjust penal sanctions to the needs of the individual offender in a manner proportionate to the offence committed.

Another option is to resort to restorative justice programmes under which the victim, offender and other people in the community help to find negotiated solutions. The process emphasizes relationship building and reconciliation. The outcome may include reparation, restitution and community services.

To learn more about UN standards and norms, as well as to download UNODC tools and handbooks, please visit http://www.unodc.org/criminal_justice.html

SOUTH AFRICA

HIV/AIDS among vulnerable groups

With a national HIV prevalence rate of 18.8 per cent among adults aged 15-49, South Africa has the highest absolute number of people living with HIV in the world — 5.5 million out of a world total of almost 40 million, according to UNAIDS.

However, certain groups are more exposed to the virus than others. Of particular concern to policymakers and UNODC are prisoners and drug users, among whom HIV prevalence levels are much higher than in the general population.

HIV and prisons

Although a national HIV prevalence rate for prisons is not available, reports have indicated that in some institutions, it can reach 40 per cent. In the absence of adequate HIV prevention and care in penal institutions, the virus spreads there and in the communities inmates return to upon release.

As in many developing countries, South African prisons are seriously overcrowded. Official statistics show that there are approximately 160,000 prisoners, whereas the capacity is 115,000. In some prisons, such as Westville in Durban and Pollsmoor in Cape Town, there may be up to six prisoners in a cell built for one.

“The overcrowding is a total violation of the prisoners’ human rights,” says Venessa Padayachee, a programme specialist with the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO). “It not only causes victimization in the prison but also hardens the inmates and leads to rapes.”

Reychad Abdool, a Kenya-based UNODC HIV/AIDS expert, agrees. He adds that sex among prison inmates, sometimes consensual, often not, is a sensitive subject.

“Governments are up to now very, very cautious about even discussing men having sex with men in prisons,” Abdool says. “Of course this is a reality, but to get

governments to talk about providing prisoners with condoms, we need to talk about it in the context of the overall management of prisons.”

High-risk activities such as tattooing and piercing without properly sterilized equipment contribute to the high HIV prevalence rates in prison. The lack of sufficient treatment facilities also increases the risk of mother-to-child HIV transmission.

Drugs and the link to HIV

Another important factor in the spread of HIV in prisons is drugs. Many inmates used drugs before going to jail and many continue inside, despite no-drugs policies.

“The continued use of drugs during incarceration has been associated with the increased spread of HIV,” says Claudia Shilumani, HIV/AIDS National Programme Officer at the UNODC office in Pretoria. “Using drugs may lead to unsafe sexual practices which in turn expose people to the virus. Therefore, our work to reduce drug abuse in prisons is another measure towards HIV prevention.”

One example of UNODC’s work in prisons can be found in the juvenile section of Leeuwkop prison, north of Johannesburg. Most of the inmates are there for drug-related offences — such as buying, selling or manufacturing drugs, or stealing to pay for a drug habit.

As with adult drug-users, most juvenile inmates continue their drug habits inside prison. Some Leeuwkop inmates got tired of living in cells with a lot of drug use, and decided, in partnership with UNODC, the NGO Khulisa and the prison authorities, to start two “drug-free cells.” To be eligible to stay there, inmates have to go through a basic drug awareness programme. They also sign a declaration, agreeing to obey 16 rules such as no smoking, no sodomy and no gangsterism, and they have to accept frequent, random drug tests.



HOW IS HIV TRANSMITTED?

FACTS

UNPROTECTED SEXUAL CONTACT, primarily through unprotected vaginal or anal intercourse with an infected partner. Worldwide, sexual intercourse is the leading mode of HIV transmission. Oral sex is much less likely than vaginal or anal intercourse to result in the transmission of HIV. Women are more likely to contract HIV from men than vice versa. Among females, the risk is greatest for adolescent girls and young women, whose developing reproductive systems make them more likely to become infected if exposed to sexually transmitted infections including HIV.

EXPOSURE TO INFECTED BLOOD. The most efficient means of HIV transmission is the introduction of HIV-infected blood into the bloodstream, particularly through transfusion of infected blood. Most blood-to-blood transmission now occurs as a result of the use of contaminated injection equipment during injecting drug use. Use of improperly sterilized syringes and other medical equipment in health-care settings can also result in HIV transmission.

TRANSMISSION FROM A MOTHER WITH HIV INFECTION TO HER CHILD, during pregnancy, during delivery or as a result of breastfeeding.



South Africans used to struggle for democratic rights. Now, the struggle has turned to provision of HIV/AIDS treatment.
 Copyright: Zapiro/Mail and Guardian.

“So far, it’s going well,” says John, who is the leader of one of the drug-free cells. “In my cell, we not only talk about drugs, but also give the guys life skills and HIV prevention training. We get respect from other prisoners and it’s seen as a privilege to live in this cell.”

Jeromy Mostert, a psychologist at the prison, says the authorities are trying to support the drug-free cells as much as possible because drugs cause a lot of disruptive behaviour in the prison. The most popular incentive they can give inmates seems to be access to a TV for their cell. Prisoners are locked in from 3 pm onwards and television helps to alleviate the chronic boredom.

“It’s the first time we’re running drug-free cells here, so we’re on a steep learning curve,” Mostert says. “But overall, it’s positive. We’re also pleased to see that some of the guys we trained here are now running a similar programme in the adult jail.”

Injecting drug users

Injecting drug use is limited in South Africa. Of the estimated 13 million injecting drug users worldwide, less than a million are found in Africa. Cheaper drugs, such as cannabis, are generally preferred over injected drugs such as heroin.

However, UNAIDS has warned that “new epidemics of injecting drug use are being witnessed in countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.” And judging from available treatment centre figures, treatment demand for heroin is on the rise in South Africa.

Reychad Abdool says that the drug scene could change quickly and policymakers should not become complacent as sharing syringes spreads the virus very efficiently.

“If you look at the situation in East Africa, for a long time, injecting drug use was not really a problem,” he says. “But in the last few years, it’s taken off, and caught the Governments off guard. Southern Africa should learn from their experience.”



▶ Claudia Shilumani and Reychad Abdool are Africa-based HIV experts for UNODC.

SOUTH AFRICA

Proudly Manenberg

Manenberg, a township of approximately 70,000 residents some 20 kilometres from Cape Town city centre, is notorious for gangs, drugs and crime. As in many South African townships, the primary role models for young people are gang leaders because they can afford a better lifestyle than most other residents. Schools are deprived and there are few community services.

A group of former anti-apartheid activists decided to help turn things around. All of them grew up in Manenberg, but most have moved out, chiefly for safety reasons, but also because there are few employment opportunities in the community. Their campaign, "Proudly Manenberg," is consciously not "anti" anything. Instead, they want to be positive.

"We want to turn around the negative perception many people have of Manenberg," says Irvin Kinnes, an independent criminologist, former United Nations Vienna Civil Society Award recipient and campaign co-founder. "We're investing in the community through young people. It's about creating opportunities for them, particularly through education."

Proudly Manenberg is run entirely on a voluntary basis and funds are limited. However, occasional fundraising events are held and people involved are encouraged to make donations.

Last year, the campaign managed to give scholarships to 12 young people who would not have been able to attend university otherwise. The scholarship recipients have outstanding academic records and are highly motivated for further studies.

Some of them have also experienced severe personal hardships, such as one of the 2005 awardees, who is a former methamphetamine ("tik") addict. "She's now doing very well in her graphic design studies," Kinnes says.

In addition to providing scholarships, the campaign is looking into offering community services such as academic support for students, training for teachers and leadership development.

Gangs are prominent in Manenberg, and many of the development initiatives that have been run in the township over the years have sought to deal with this problem through dialogue and constructive engagement with gang members. This strategy may be counterproductive, Kinnes says, because it legitimizes the gangs.

Proudly Manenberg is taking a different approach by not engaging with gangs at all. Knowing full well that they are an entrenched part of the community, the aim is to close down some of their operating space and thus start suffocating them.

Right: Some of the recipients of Proudly Manenberg scholarships.

Bottom: In Manenberg, some children start their school days by walking through fortified gates.





Blantyre, June 29, 2005: Prisoners sleep in cramped positions before being woken up at dawn inside an overcrowded cell in the Maula Prison in Blantyre, Malawi. Some cells have as many as 160 prisoners. Malawi prisons have a good human rights record but they are overcrowded and many of those incarcerated have been on remand for several years due to lack of financial and legal resources. Photo: João Silva for *The New York Times*.



João Silva: On the frontline

As a child, the Lisbon-born photographer moved with his parents to the then Portuguese colony of Mozambique before re-settling in South Africa, where he got his first glimpse of racism. He has kept his eyes wide open ever since, camera in hand, eager to show the world “how screwed up the human race is” and to help bring about change.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, he covered the escalating violence that marked his adopted land’s transition from apartheid to democracy. Since then, in Angola, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq and other hotspots, he has covered humanitarian crises, internal conflicts and wars. As a photojournalist for *The New York Times*, he currently spends six months a year in Iraq, at times on the receiving end of U.S. fire.

João Silva spoke with *Perspectives* Editor Norha Restrepo after presenting his work on Malawian prisons at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at UNODC headquarters in Vienna.



Baghdad, August 19, 2003: A U.S. soldier is photographed at the burning United Nations compound after a huge bomb exploded destroying part of the building. Photo: João Silva for *The New York Times*.

What was it like to grow up as an immigrant in South Africa?

South Africa was such a polarized nation that even as a white immigrant you were not necessarily welcome in that closed Afrikaner-type society. So the first exposure I had to racism was not really what was happening in the social fabric of the country but the intolerance that was directed towards foreigners. The whole social situation was obviously wrong and needed to change and, as a journalist, my focus was clear. My career started in 1989 as apartheid was coming to an end, as the political violence was escalating to the point of madness. And it was clear-cut what my role was going to be.

What is your analysis of the situation today?

South Africa has made huge, huge progress. Absolutely. It is a better country. People are free. It has its problems, ranging from HIV to unemployment, but South Africans are finally in control of their own country and that's a good thing.

Why do you expose yourself to human suffering?

I guess it's curiosity, wanting to see history unfolding before your eyes. Maybe it has to do with my personal experience with independence in Mozambique and the Portuguese fleeing the colonies for fear of retribution. And then there's the simpler stuff: I enjoy doing it. You spend a lot of time in war zones but you don't spend all your time getting shot at. There are days when there is a certain amount of adrenalin and I get a kick out of that. For the most part, there is a need to show the world how complex and how screwed up the human race is.

You've seen strangers and even friends die.

Death compounded by death affects you as a human being. But, certainly, when somebody you know dies, somebody you care about, it gives you a whole different perspective. You do go through emotional trauma. What it also does is bring closer to home the realities of a war zone. The fact that you're there as a camera,

that you're there as a non-combatant, does not exclude you.

Unfortunately, some friends of yours have killed themselves as well.

Yes, two to be exact. The most famous case, of course, is Kevin Carter, who won a Pulitzer prize for a picture of a young Sudanese child being stalked by a vulture. People often ask me if the horrors that he saw were the reason. My answer is always that they were not the sole reason. There's always something in the personality that takes people to those extremes but his experiences covering conflict certainly pushed him over the edge. The interesting thing about Kevin's case is that he took his life three months after winning the Pulitzer, the most coveted award in journalism. There lies the irony: getting that award made life more complicated for him. It compounded the guilt he felt about having survived and having kind of profited from other people's suffering.

You've worked a lot with the UN.

My experience has been that UN assistance in places like Sudan and Angola is invaluable. In Angola, during the war, you could only travel if you got onto a WFP [World Food Programme] flight. People were always hospitable and helpful on the ground. In many situations, it is very difficult for journalists to work without that assistance. The UN has always been, in my opinion, a great friend to journalists and when I say the UN I'm obviously speaking of different agencies under its umbrella.

You were in Baghdad when the UN compound was bombed.

At the time, we had no idea where the bombing had occurred. We were in our [New York Times] bureau when there was this massive explosion that reverberated throughout the city and then huge plumes of smoke streaked the sky. We chased after it. When we arrived on the scene, it was mass destruction. I got there maybe 10-12 minutes after the explosion and chaos reigned. Casualties were crawling out of the building, which was still on fire. The American soldiers that had been guarding the place were kind of disorientated, securing the area but saying: 'God, what's just happened?' Sadly, it was the beginning of something bad and it hasn't stopped. It just goes to show that in that kind of situation, even if you're an NGO, the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] or whoever, you're not exempt. The boundaries have changed so much.

Photographer
João Silva presents
his work at
UNODC headquar-
ters in Vienna.



Your book In the Company of God is an account of the time you spent with Iraq's Shia Muslims.

The book focuses on faith, politics, sacrifice and war. The first part of the book talks about the Shiite faith and how it differs from the Sunni faith. The second part is about sacrifice, including suicide bombings. The third part consists entirely of combat images from the last Shiite uprising in Iraq, when I spent a whole month embedded with Shiite militias. It was pretty crazy, pretty chaotic. Being on the other side of American fire is astonishing. There were some very, very dangerous moments that were captured in the pictures. The final part of the book is about the democratic process that started in early 2005 with the elections.

Your pictures of Malawian prisons have moved many people around the world.

Surprisingly, the Government gave us all the access we needed and was totally open about the challenges it faces in dealing with overcrowded and congested prisons. In a way, this willingness to show the world the problems it is facing might be a plea for help to the international community. The photos you saw were taken during a two-day visit to Maula Prison. The day begins when a select group of prisoners is let out to work outside the compound, to chop wood and get the cooking fires going. Then, at six o'clock, the rest of the population is let out into the yards. These prisoners spend an average of 14 hours every day in a room that contains 100-150 people. It is so tight that prisoners sleep interlocked. They are so crammed that they cannot turn over in their sleep, so each cell has a prisoner whose task it is to wake everybody up at a certain point in the evening so that they can all turn over at the same time, to be a little bit more comfortable and get the circulation going. As you can expect with that kind of congestion, hygiene is a problem. People are sick. But as African prisons go, it is not the worst, not by far. Living conditions are harsh but prisoners are not being abused. It was amazing to see. My initial reaction was: 'This must have been what the slave ships were like, all those years ago, when they used to carry human cargo. All those people packed like sardines.'

High Grade for Caribbean youth television drama

In Jamaica last year, UNODC, UNDP and UNESCO jointly produced *High Grade*, a television drama about the difficulties faced by teenagers who grow up in tough inner-city communities where drugs, crime and HIV are widespread.

The main character, Taj, is hard-working and conscientious. He is in his final year of high school and dreams about going to university and becoming an engineer. His mother encourages him to study hard and get high grades. In his spare time, Taj volunteers at a local youth centre.

However, when his mother, who raised him as a single parent, dies in a drug-related shooting, he finds it difficult to cope. He gets involved in drug dealing, a bad choice that impacts negatively on his schoolwork and his relationship with his otherwise supportive girlfriend Taneisha.

Taneisha, who spends some of her after-school time teaching hair-dressing, also faces problems since one of the girls in her class has been diagnosed HIV-positive.



In this scene, Taj has just learned of his mother's death.

The girl is scared that the stigma will be too much to bear, but Taneisha and Taj talk to their peers and explain that HIV cannot be transmitted through everyday activities and that they should support friends who are infected.

In the end, Taj manages to get out of dealing drugs before it's too late. He also gets back on track with his schoolwork, with help from his mentor. The final scene is of Taj receiving a scholarship to study engineering at university. His dream has come true through tough choices and hard work.

UNODC's Kemal Kurspahic says that *High Grade* captures the inspiring story of a young man who, in spite of dismal odds, manages to improve his life. "The drama highlights the importance of positive influences in young people's lives from the community at large: family, peers, school, church."

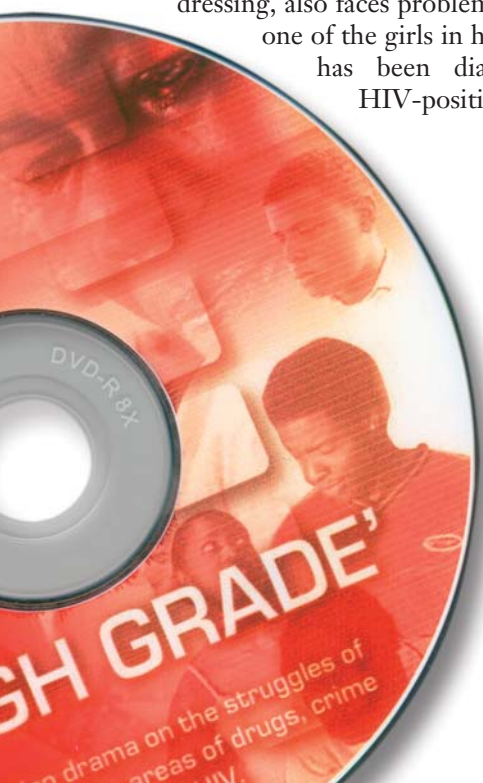
The programme has been broadcast on a number of television channels across the Caribbean. Executive

producer Angela Patterson, of the Creative Production and Training Centre in Kingston, says the drama has struck a chord with teenagers.

"Young people in Jamaica are very difficult to attract," she says, "They are so busy doing other things: playing with video games, going to parties or just hanging out on the corner with friends. But *High Grade* held their attention. It connected, and that is in itself quite an achievement."

After the premiere of *High Grade* in Kingston last year, an expert panel discussion highlighted the importance of community support for youth-at-risk. The experts praised the programme, calling it a "must-see" for audiences across the region.

The United Nations agencies involved in the production followed up on its success by putting together a brochure with discussion points for debates to accompany the drama's presentation throughout the Caribbean.



2006 United Nations Vienna Civil Society Awards

Winners of the 2006 United Nations Vienna Civil Society Awards, which honour grassroots NGOs and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the fight against drugs and crime, received their prizes in Vienna on 1 December 2006.

The three winners are committed and compassionate individuals who have often made great personal sacrifices to help vulnerable people in their local communities. They share a conviction that people, no matter what their background, can succeed when given a chance.

The Civil Society Awards were created by the Austrian Federal Government, the City of Vienna and UNODC.

Ana María Maraño, from the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia, works to protect high-risk street children, particularly in the 8-12 age group. Her treatment and rehabilitation centres have helped countless children suffering from severe behavioural problems and addictions.

"I could give my life for them," Ana María said. "They are as worthy as anyone else; they should study and get ahead."

Muraad Abdulkarim Saad, from Kenya, is a campaigner in the field of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention. Through his Reach Out Centre Trust in Mombasa, Muraad has provided treatment and preventive services to thousands of people. He is planning to set up a centre to help women drug users, sex workers and trafficked women.

"Women cannot rob or steal like men to support themselves, but they can sell their bodies," he said. "This makes them especially vulnerable to taking drugs and contracting HIV/AIDS."



The winners of the 2006 Civil Society Awards with Austrian Minister of Justice Karin Gastinger, Executive City Councillor Rudi Schicker and UNODC's Kuniko Ozaki.

Touraya Bouabid is the President of the Association Marocaine d'Aide aux Enfants en Situation Précaire (AMESIP), Morocco. AMESIP cares for street children and children addicted to drugs, some of whom are as young as 5 or 6 years old. It runs detoxification programmes and shelters, and helps put children back into school. The organization also manages a circus school for street children.

"The street is the worst school for a child," Touraya said. "There is violence, sexual abuse and glue sniffing. We have to give children back their dignity."

UNODC Global Partnership Forum

UNODC hosted its first-ever Global Partnership Forum for the private sector and international foundations in Vienna in October 2006. The topic was: "Sharing responsibility to make the world safer — Investing in the prevention of drug abuse, human trafficking and HIV/AIDS."

The one-day event included participants from the Chemical Dependency Centre (UK), the Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (Germany), the Federation of Industries of Rio Grande do Sul

(Brazil) and the MTV Europe Foundation.

Professor Klaus Leisinger, CEO of the Novartis Foundation and Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Global Compact, delivered the keynote address.

At the two panel discussions, participants presented different approaches to drug abuse and human trafficking.

Actress and UNODC Goodwill Ambassador Julia Ormond introduced the topic of human traffick-

ing, speaking about her experiences in Ghana, Thailand and India. She described human trafficking as a transnational crime, adding: "We can only fix it by working transnationally." Ormond also opened an exhibition of photographs by Howard G. Buffett on modern-day slavery.

UNODC, as one of the leading international agencies in fighting drug abuse, human trafficking and organized crime, will follow up on proposals for joint activities with a number of Forum participants.

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