HELLO,
Welcome to LEDAP Nigeria Newsletter
6TH NOVEMBER - 10TH NOVEMBER 2017

NEWS

Experts divided over 2,194 death row prison inmates
The 2,194 death row inmates in Nigerian prisons as at November 2017, has attracted divided opinions from lawyers and other criminal justice analysts.
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Africa’s Legal experts to meet at IBA Conference
As Africa’s economic potential increases, and the continent becomes a key player in global business, the legal and political minefield through which law professionals working in the region have to navigate becomes more complex, writes Legalbrief. The myriad challenges this poses will be a key focus of this year’s IBA African Regional Forum Conference from 15-17 November in Ghana.
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Supreme Court of Nigeria Pronounces On NBA Stamp.
Supreme Court on Oct 28, 2017 in a judgment delivered today in Appeal No. SC/722/15 All Progressives Congress (APC) V. General Bello Sarkin Yaki, the apex Court upheld the 2nd Cross-Appellant’s Cross appeal against the decision of the Court of Appeal, Sokoto Division which summarily dismissed the 2nd Cross-Appellant’s preliminary objection which challenged the Appellants’ Notice of Appeal for failure to bear the stamp/seal of the legal practitioner who signed it.
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PARADISEPAPERS: Saraki Violates Nigerian Law again, Linked To Another Firm In Offshore Tax Haven
The President of the Nigerian Senate, Bukola Saraki, is in trouble again. On Sunday his name popped up in the global list of infamy exposing some leading world politicians for utilizing shell companies in tax havens to either conceal...
assets, evade tax, or launder funds.

Alleged Victims of Military Invasion Drag Army, AGF, Others To Court

SIX residents of Ajakurama and Tarila Zion communities, Edo State, have dragged the Nigerian Army and the Attorney-General of the Federation, AGF, before a Federal High Court in Benin City, over supposed infringement of their fundamental human rights during the October 20 invasion of the community by soldiers attached to the 19 Battalion, Koko in Delta State.

Rights Body Calls on Nigerian Govt to Halt Clampdown on Online Media

Media Rights Agenda (MRA) has called on the Federal Government to halt its reported efforts to shut down online newspapers, blogs and websites perceived to constitute a “threat to national security”. Describing the move as a brazen violation of the Constitution and Nigeria’s international human rights obligations, MRA threatened to lodge a complaint against Nigeria before regional and international human rights bodies if the Federal Government does not put a stop to the plan.

Prisoners on death row in Nigeria approaches Federal High Court to Prevent Execution

Prisoners on death row in various states in Nigeria have approached the Federal High Court in Lagos to prevent the signing of their execution warrants by the state Governors and their execution. In a suit against the Comptroller General of Nigeria prisons and all 36 state Governors, the prisoners challenge the constitutionality of the signing of warrants to execute them and contend that is unjust and amounts to a violation of their fundamental human rights for them to be executed after having spent long period of years on death row: suffering the concomitant hardship of life in custody.

26 dead Nigerian women found in Spanish warship

Italian prosecutors have commenced investigations into the deaths of 26 Nigerian women whose bodies were recovered at sea, BBC reported on Monday. The victims, who are mostly teenagers, aged 14-18, are believed to have been sexually abused and murdered as they attempted to cross the Mediterranean.
‘Death of Baby In Lagos Creche: Hospital’s Neglect Caused Death Of The Baby’

Easy Lander Children School, Lagos, the school where an adorable baby died hours after she was dropped off by her mother, have claimed the hospital where there were instructed by the baby’s mother, after the baby started jerking intermittently, failed to give emergency treatment or first aid, leading to the death of the baby. Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP), notes that such attitude by hospitals have led to the death of many accident and emergency victims who would have been saved if only timely treatment was administered. LEDAP has written to the police in Ajao Estate Ikeja to investigate the allegation of negligence and prosecute whoever is responsible.

Nigerian police rated worst in the world

Nigerian Police Force (NPF) is the worst in the world, according to the 2016 World Internal Security and Police Index (WISPI). The WISPI was released by two bodies – the International Police Science Association and the Institute for Economics and Peace.

NGO advocates inclusion of more women in governance

An NGO, Love to the World Initiative, has called on the Federal Government to give more women opportunities in governance to impact positively on the society. Ms Josephine Abraham, Chief Executive Officer of the initiative, also singer and producer of a movie “Girl-Child”, spoke with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Saturday in Abuja.

The Legal Profession Regulation Bill at the National Assembly

The Legal profession Regulation Bill which is known as A Bill for an Act to repeal the Legal Practitioners Act Cap C11 LFN 2004 and all amendments thereto; Legal Education (Consolidation etc,) Act Cap. L10 LFN 2004 and enact the Legal Profession Regulation Act which shall regulate the legal profession is currently having a smooth passage before both Houses of the National Assembly.

SERAP asks CCB, ICPC to Probe Okorocha Over ‘N1bn Statues of Zuma, Johnson-Sirleaf’
Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project, (SERAP) has asked Dr Muhammad Isah Acting Chairman of the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) and Professor Bolaji Owasanoye Acting Chairman of Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to “jointly investigate allegations of incompatibility and/or apparent conflict of interest situation, and abuse of office involving Governor Rochas Okorocha of Imo State in connection with the exercise of his public functions and leadership of the Rochas Okorocha Foundation, and to collaborate with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in any such investigation.”

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**Illegal Demolition: Suleja Shop Owners Sue Local Govt**

Shop owners at the Old Minna Garage have sued the chairman and Suleja Local Government of Niger State over the alleged illegal demolition of their shops. The fundamental rights application was filed on November 11 by their lawyer and human rights activist, Frank Tietie before a Niger State High Court in Suleja. The shop owners and occupants of Old Minna Garage, Suleja, Niger State, who are represented by: Hezekiah Bola Joshua, Onuora Ezekwesili, Paulinus Ojobe, Iyabode Joseph, Gerald Ego and Ejike Onyekwere, wants the court to issue an injunction restraining the council from further demolition of any shop “without proper acquisition procedure.”

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**LEDAP@WORK**

LEDAP, National Judicial Institute, and AfricaLii commence Nigeria Legal Information Institute (NigeriaLii)

Nigeria Legal Information Institute (NigeriaLii) is aimed at bringing legal materials, all laws and case decisions in Nigeria free of charge to the public. The official launch is coming up soon but the NigeriaLii portal currently contains several thousands of case decisions, statutes, rules of court, and other legal materials.

To access NigeriaLii visit

**PRESS RELEASE: LEDAP Sues over security votes**

The Legal Defence & Assistance Project (LEDAP) has led a suit challenging the collection and allocation of millions of naira to the state governors as security
VOTES. LEDAP’s suit recently filed at the Federal High Court Lagos is against the 36 state governors and their houses of assembly and argues a case for restraining of the defendants from allocating moneys as security votes, an act which LEDAP argues it's unconstitutional, without lawful basis and contrary to the Defendant’s oath of offices.

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LEDAP berates Federal Government for not sharing in the plight of over 600 Nigerians on death row in foreign countries

The Legal Assistance and Defence Projec (LEDAP) has berated the Federal Government for not showing interest in the plight of over 600 Nigerians on death row in foreign countries. The National Coordinator of LEDAP, Mr. Chino Obiagwu, expressed this concern during a media chat in Lagos on the occasion of the World Day Against the Use of the Death Penalty.

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LEDAP attends high level convening on genocide and atrocity crimes in the US

Mr Chino Obiagwu of LEDAP who is also chair of Nigerian Coalition on the International Criminal Court (NCICC) addressed a high level conference hosted by United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC where he discussed genocide and atrocity crimes in modern world. Nigeria’s armed insurgencies and tribal/religious conflicts have been marked by heinous atrocities which, if not redressed, will linger into the future generations. The Genocides of the civil war remain in the national memory and many more in the north central and north east region make these times the bloodiest in the nation’s history. Sharing these deep issues with world leaders, international experts and victims, the conference hopes to enrich LEDAP’s new initiative to promote transitional justice programme in Nigeria.

LEDAP V SEC &1OR

LEDAP filed a suit against Security and Exchange Commission seeking that they are not to allow state governments float bonds and other securities and raise money from the public in violations of the provisions of the investment and security act, that the provisions of sec 222 through to 226 and the entire part XV of the investment and security act which allows the government to raise funds from the public is unconstitutional, and an order restraining the defendants from authorising or raising funds and other securities for any government in the capital market.
LEDAP addresses African Commission on death penalty in Africa

In the just concluded Africa Commission on death penalty in Africa, LEDAP addressed the commission, the presentation consisted of a brief background of death penalty in Nigeria, the presentation tinted that death penalty in Nigeria is unconstitutional and death penalty has been imposed for crimes that do not involve intentional killing and hence does not meet the threshold of “most serious crimes”, as prescribed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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EVENTS

Call for Proposals: UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

Deadline: 5 December 2017
The UN Trust Fund has launched 2017 Call for Proposals for its 21st grants cycle to support civil society organizations that qualify for funding under the three programmatic areas of its 2015-2020 Strategy.

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Government of the Netherlands – Human Rights Fund

Human rights are the cornerstone of human dignity, freedom and development in a society. The Human Rights Fund (MRF) supports organisations that work for human rights worldwide.

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Advocates for Alternatives (ACA) seeks a Legal Coordinator

Advocates for Alternatives (ACA) is seeking a lawyer with international human rights expertise to manage our legal docket and provide support to our legal partners throughout West Africa. The intended start date for this position is January 2018.

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Invitation

The High Level Panel discussion to launch the CEDAW General Recommendation No.35 on gender-based violence against women updating General Recommendation No. 19 -- 14 November 2017 from 15:00 to 17:00 -- Palais des Nations Room XVI, Geneva, Switzerland

Read more
Call for inputs

Contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 35/21 -- Deadline 30 November 2017

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European Parliament Conference on Youth and Gender In Africa

“Investing in Youth”: Parliament invites African leaders in Brussels on 22 November to discuss development before the EU-Africa summit.

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