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## Nigeria: Agodi Prisons Condition Bad - Rights Group

**Daily Champion (Lagos)**  
**18 September 2007**

Posted to the web 18 September 2007

[Email](#) This Page[Print](#) This PageDele Ogunyemi  
Ibadan

OFICIALS of the Human Rights Commission (HRC), yesterday condemned last week's shooting of inmates of Agodi Prisons Ibadan, who attempted a jail-break. They described the condition there as appalling.

The HRC officials, who were on a fact-finding mission to the prison where about 40 inmates allegedly lost their lives during the attempted jail-break, advised security operatives to refrain from using maximum force in quelling uprising.

Led by its Executive Secretary, Mrs. Kehinde Ajoni, the Commission maintained that the killing of inmates by the combined efforts of the warders and mobile policemen was condemnable, insisting that the security operatives should learn to maim and not to kill.

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According to the HRC scribe, the Agodi Prison revolt might have been caused by the inmates vent up anger over the unending workers strike in Oyo State which also affected the various courts in the state in hearing their pending cases.

The Secretary, however, remarked that the fact-finding tour of the prison would enable the commission recommend appropriately to the stakeholders on funding and other requisite reforms needed for the prison service. Lamenting that the Agodi Prison, built by the colonial masters in 1894, ought to have been relocated from the city centre.

Mrs. Ajoni, who toured the prison premises in the company of the Deputy Comptroller General (DCG), Administration, Mr. Gabriel Diya stressed the need for collaborative efforts among relevant stakeholders if the decongestion of the nation's prisons is to be effective.

She remarked that the Ibadan prison riots was similar to the previous riots in Port Harcourt, Lagos and other parts of the country which claimed many lives and property worth millions of naira and maintained that "the incessant prison riots across the country are rather symptoms of the decadent prison condition which requires a thorough overhaul."

The Human Rights Commission boss opined that there will be some form of reconciliation between Oyo State government and the labour congress, with view to resolving the on-going industrial action by workers as, according to her, it is not in the interest of anybody for the strike to be stretched any longer.

She also advised the Oyo State Judiciary to adopt a process of fast tracking or opt for the Alternate Dispute Resolution {ADR} mechanism which she noted would go a long way to decongest the prisons.

Meanwhile, 17 out of the 22 injured rushed to

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the University College Hospital (UCH) for treatments during the revolt have been discharged. One of the five remaining inmates is to undergo surgical operations, according to Mr. Kayode Odeyemi, the Public Relation Officer of the Nigerian Prison Service.

Briefing journalists in the Oyo State capital over the weekend, Odeyemi disclosed that the authorities of the Nigeria Prisons Service will soon relocate the troubled Federal Prisons, Agodi, Ibadan to the new ultra modern Prisons under construction at Ologuneru, also in the Oyo State capital, in view of the noticeable problem of congestion at the Agodi Prison.

"With the completion of Ologuneru Prison now under construction to replace the Agodi Prison, the problem of congestion in our prisons in Oyo State will be solved," the PRO stated while commending the Federal Government for releasing a whopping sum of N200million towards the completion of the new Ologuneru Prison.

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