

AFRICAN PRISONS PROJECT

I take a keen and close interest in the work of the African Prisons Project and its young founder Alexander McLean. APP is a young charity run by young volunteers. It was founded to improve the welfare, health and education of detainees in Africa. Its aim is to restore the dignity of prisoners by providing humane conditions and improving welfare, access to medical facilities and the opportunity to learn. The work of this small charity in Uganda is remarkable.

For instance, it has either built or refurbished a number of buildings including a hospital, library and welfare office in a prison. The charity has been looking at ways to facilitate access to running water at a remand prison. APP has produced a CD of music performed by three choirs of condemned prisoners and are working towards the formation of a drama group of prisoners suffering from Aids. APP is also involved in the education of prisoners and is training some local lawyers to enable them to represent the prisoners. Similar work has also been done in Kenya.

The founder of APP is a committed and determined young man, who has put his career on hold to carry out this important work. There can be no doubt that the work of this small charity has had a significant and positive impact on the lives of the detainees in the prisons in which the charity has operated. It takes courage to work in the conditions under which the volunteers operate and the charity deserves all the support that can be commanded for it.

The Honourable Mrs Justice Dobbs DBE.

The Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL

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