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Africa: Making love a crime: Criminalization of same-sex conduct in Sub-Saharan Africa (AI index: AFR 01/001/2013)

Since the above report was printed in April 2013, new information has emerged regarding the status of criminalisation of same-sex conduct in two sub-Saharan countries.

This report states that thirty-eight countries in Africa have laws criminalising consensual same-sex conduct.

In fact, by the time the report was publically launched (25 June 2013) thirty six countries in Africa criminalised same-sex conduct: of which thirty-one are in sub-Saharan Africa.

The information that Benin and Lesotho are both criminalising countries was out of date by the time of launch. Amnesty International took the information on both countries from the annual 'State-Sponsored Homophobia' report produced by the ILGA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association).

In 2012 Lesotho introduced a new penal code which abolished the common law provisions against same-sex sexual conduct.

The ILGA 2012 report listed Benin as a criminalising country and the map reproduced in the Amnesty International report (which comes directly from ILGA's 2012 report and is attributed as such) reflects this. The May 2013 ILGA report has corrected this, however Amnesty International's report was printed before this correction was made.

The ILGA map containing the most up-to-date information for 2013 can be downloaded from here:

http://ilga.org/ilga/en/article/1161