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To the Newly Elected Government
& Sir Keir Starmer; PRIME MINISTER of the UK

The Ongoing Constitutional Injustice in Zimbabwe.

<https://x.com/zoomafrika1/status/1823789731320090919>

"I will not attend the SADC summit Zimbabwe is not safe for me" ~Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema 14th August 2024

Round Up of Statements from Individuals and Organisations

"ZANU PF President Emmerson Mnangagwa is aggravating the citizens of Zimbabwe by unleashing violence, torture, random arrests, abductions, threats, and repression against all {perceived or otherwise} 'opposition' by targeting, social, and human rights activists.

Since the arrest of Senator Jameson Timba and the Avondale 78, {16th JUNE 2024} there has been an escalation of suppression throughout the country against opposition, social, and Human Rights activists."

"There is now an operation in motion to hunt them down." Dickson Chikwizo CCC and ZHRO .13th Aug 2024; see Appendix 6

"The SADC summit has cast a dark shadow over the lives of Zimbabwean citizens, unleashing a wave of violence, abductions, torture, and arbitrary arrests. President Mnangagwa appears determined to silence dissent, willing to spill blood to achieve his vision of a dictatorship by 2030. His actions reveal a deep-seated criminality, as he clings to power to avoid facing justice for his regime's numerous atrocities."

"The current oppression starkly contrasts with the hope for freedom many believed the country had left behind. In a matter of just two months, over 100 people have been arrested, including prominent opposition figures like Senator Jameson Timba and 78 others associated with Advocate Nelson Chamisa. Alarmingly, this includes a mother and her infant. Students from the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) have suffered brutal treatment, with their leader, Emmanuel Sitima, facing arrest and violence. Human rights defenders—Namatai Kwekweza, Samuel Gwenzi, Vusumuzi Moyo, and Robson Chere—have been abducted from the airport and subjected to torture. Additionally, Jacob Ngarivhume has endured relentless persecution." ***Basil Kambombe CCC Manchester. 13th Aug 2024***

Council for Foreign Relations: 13th August 2024; *See full Blog statement in Appendix 3*

"...In practice, Zimbabwe's governing authorities are preparing to host the upcoming SADC summit by terrorizing political opponents, student activists, labor organizers, and community leaders—



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disrupting the peace and security of Zimbabwean citizens in a quest to silence anyone who might point out the way government corruption impedes economic development."

Amnesty International Statement 9th August 2024: *Full text in Appendix 1*

"Authorities must end massive crackdown on dissent before SADC summit

- More than 160 people arrested since mid-June before upcoming SADC summit in Harare
- Evidence of torture or other ill-treatment
- "Sets a dangerous tone for the bloc's commitment to human rights" – Idriss Ali Nassah

"Zimbabwean authorities must end their crackdown against opposition and civil society members ahead of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit scheduled for 17 August 2024 in Harare, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said today. The authorities must immediately and unconditionally release everyone arrested for exercising their rights."

"The Zimbabwe authorities' intensified crackdown and the dismantling of fundamental freedoms is directly linked to the government's hosting of the SADC summit in Harare," Nassah said. "It sets a dangerous tone for the bloc's commitment to human rights under the upcoming chairmanship of Zimbabwe President Mnangagwa."

*Idriss Ali Nassah: senior Africa researcher at **Human Rights Watch***

The authorities must stop committing such violations and immediately release all detainees.

*Khanyo Farise, Deputy Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, **Amnesty International***

Catholics Bishops Conference: 9th August 2024; *Full transcript in Appendix 2*

"As the Catholic Bishops we are worried and saddened that to silence the dissenting voices and to quell possible demonstrations violence, torture, and abductions seem to be the only options deployed."

"As we once appealed before the August 2023 elections, we urge our politicians again and those in government to exercise their duties responsibly. There is no need for the toxic, inflammatory rhetoric that is awash in the media."

CCC Statement: July/August 2024; see *full text in Appendix 5*

"The government of Zimbabwe has been the chief perpetrator of corruption, rent seeking and plunder of state resources, awarding lucrative contracts to themselves, their kith and kin and their cronies and proxies."



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iPetition in Zimbabwe; Full content in Appendix 4

"The level of corruption in Zimbabwe has reached an unacceptable level, where a powerful few are seizing land, siphoning off taxpayer funds, and undermining the integrity of our democratic institutions."

"The abuse of power by individuals with close ties to top officials is leading to the bullying and intimidation of government departments, parastatals, the police force, and even our independent institutions."

"This is a clear betrayal of the principles and sacrifices of our liberation struggle, and the ethos of good governance as enshrined in our Constitution."

Signed by 44 NGO's connected with Zimbabwe

We, as the Zimbabwean diaspora, have written several petitions to the UK government {including the FCDO} and carried out various protests in the UK against the Zanu-PF regime in Zimbabwe. Which we feel has illegally and unconstitutionally declared itself as the elected government of Zimbabwe. Indeed, the failure to respect the voting intentions of the Zimbabwean peoples in the {now highly disputed} elections carried out over 23-24th August 2023.

Worldwide criticism of the procedures, processes and declarations by ZEC have been proclaimed, but the Zanu PF regime simply occupied their {false} parliament, claiming a 'majority'.

The Zanu PF regime, cynically and unconstitutionally, simply carried out a process to remove all opposition (then Citizens Coalition for Change) elected MP's from parliament. This process involved falsification of the opposition Secretary General's identity, to remove the CCC MP's. Aided and abetted by the "Leader of the House".

A Change of Administration brings Hope

Perhaps now with the appointment of Lord Collins of Highbury as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Deputy Leader of the House of Lords and Lord in Waiting (Government Whip) on 9 July 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers/parliamentary-under-secretary-of-state--242>

His welcome views on the Zimbabwe election - 23-24th August 2023 {and before see 12th Jan 2023 Hansard/Lords debate on Zimbabwe }

""My Lords, I welcome what the Minister says about targeted sanctions. They are important, but what are we doing to investigate the electoral commission, particularly after the irregularities in the election last year? What are we doing about the security leaders, who have been targeting opposition activists? The other thing I will raise again—I know the Minister will expect me to raise it—is the importance of civil society, particularly



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representation of workers in Zimbabwe, because international trade unions have been concerned about that. If we work with them as well, instead of it being just a British Government voice, we will have a better response in Zimbabwe.”” 7th March 2024

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2024-03-07/debates/82517644-23C4-452C-8B84-B641DFCD411C/ZimbabweSanctions#contribution-6FCB10FC-CD81-4744-9CBB-D9C70561B6AE>

Recommendations

Our Petition regarding the Zimbabwe Elections held over 23-24th August 2023, Mismanaged by the highly partisan **Zimbabwe Electoral Commission** (ZEC). We are Seeking a new election supervised or directly controlled by SADC/AU or even the Commonwealth/UK/EU/USA

1. We are calling for a lasting solution to the Zimbabwean crisis through a re- run of the Zimbabwean harmonised elections under direct supervision by SADC , AU , the Commonwealth and the EU.
2. The Zimbabwean diaspora community is calling for no taxation without representation. This community is providing substantial liquidity to the Zimbabwean economy and must be allowed to vote. **“The Diaspora Vote”**
3. ZEC has failed dismally and must be disbanded. Never ever to preside over any elections in Zimbabwe.
4. The International community must put pressure on the Military Junta in Harare to implement the reforms recommended by the Montelathe Commission.
5. The Military, Judiciary and Police must not be involved in the country's politics, cease and desist from being partisan.
6. The TV/Newspaper/Media must not be involved in the country's politics and desist from being partisan.

Basic Human Rights – Ignored by Zanu PF

However, there are plenty of other examples of unconstitutional, illegal actions and breaches of basic Human Rights happening regularly in Zimbabwe by the Zanu PF regime – right up to today.

Many other august bodies have highlighted these – many of which we have brought to the attention of the UK government.

UN Human Rights on X – Twitter

<https://x.com/unhumanrights/status/1823644759132385534>

“#Zimbabwe: We are concerned by reports of arrests, harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders and political activists in the lead up to the @SADC_News summit.”

“We call for the immediate release of all those arbitrarily detained and protection of civic space.”



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Amnesty International 5 years Review

Amnesty International Published a Review of Mnangagwa's Five Year "dictatorship" on 29th September 2023 Fully available on one of our websites at this link;

<https://zhro.org.uk/human-rights-uk/zim-updates/147-amnesty-international-zimbabwe-review-2018-2023>

We trust that the FCDO and Minister for Africa has Read this and formulated appropriate policy towards all the criminality recorded by the illustrious and respected *Amnesty International*;

.....

"Instead, five years on, Mnangagwa's government has failed to break from the past and continued to crack down on human rights. The state authorities have employed various methods to suppress dissenting voices. Policing has increasingly been militarised and the excessive use of force by law enforcement during protests has become all too common. As a result, the space for civic engagement has continued to shrink rapidly, making it increasingly difficult for individuals and groups to freely express themselves peacefully, safely, and effectively."

Then we have the injustice of the non-voting Zimbabwean Diaspora –

It seems very difficult to ascertain the actual numbers of those who have fled the Zanu PF regime to "safer" sanctuaries – the referendum for the diaspora vote is referenced at the link below;

<https://zexit.org/referendum>

However there are many Zanu PF regime supporters and 'officials in the UK; some could argue that they are here to act as spies and infiltrators see <https://zhro.org.uk/155-zanu-pf-spies-in-the-uk>

And **Appendix 7** for the Cell Structures that the regime uses

Zanu PF and Torture:

Over the years torture victims in Zimbabwe have suffered physical pain, as well as psychological trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder despite the prohibition of torture under customary international law and in the constitution. Zimbabwe is yet to ratify the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment and is one of only three countries in Africa, including Sudan and Tanzania, that has not yet ratified this important international instrument calling on states to prevent the practice of torture

<https://x.com/protecthrds/status/1805963667277553930?s=46&t=j-WOhzO6EnhYFn5cRd5v>



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Regarding Torture in Zimbabwe; Zimbabwe Human Rights Monitors Platform {Tweet}

“Today, 26 June 2024, we unite with pro-Human Rights forces around the world in commemorating the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Zimbabwe needs to adopt a zero-tolerance policy to torture and other forms of ill-treatment.”

Economic Mismanagement

Other commentators have cited Zimbabwe as an economic disaster area. Poverty, Inflation, new Currencies, Corruption and Looting have dogged Zimbabwe since Independence 44 years ago.

The tired, and often stated claims of “it is the Sanctions” cannot be given any credence.

The self aggrandisement of the regime and their claimed “successes” all turn out to be shams and propaganda.

Steve Hanke – Economist @steve_hanke

*“By my measure, Zimbabwe's inflation continues to ROAR at **559.7%/yr.**”*

“Pres. Mnangagwa = BURN, BABY! BURN!”

Zanu PF UK and Europe – Spying and Infiltration of Opposition

<https://zhro.org.uk/155-zanu-pf-spies-in-the-uk>

See Appendix 7 for full Zanu PF cell structures..

Zanu PF UK have attempted to subvert even this petition with false ‘opposition membership’ claims. Their CIO {Central Intelligence Operatives/Officers} are here in the UK to both lobby Government {now with false claims they represent the Zimbabwean Opposition} and we suspect, to launder funds for the regime as well as masking the criminal activities of Zanu PF regime.



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Petition Organised and Delivered By

Thank you for your attention to this matter. we look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours Sincerely, John C Burke {e-mail: john.b@zhro.org.uk }, Basil Kamombe, and Dickson Chikwizo

Name	Organization	Signature
Basil Kamombe	CCC Manchester branch Member	
Dickson Chikwizo	CCC Manchester branch Secretary for Welfare	
Jane Mundangepfupfu	CCC Manchester branch Vice Secretary for Women Assembly	
Simbarashe Jingo	CCC Milton Keynes branch Chair for Youth Assembly	
Cathrine Gwenhe Lebadou	CCC Manchester branch Organizing Secretary for Women Assembly	
John C Burke	ZHRO: Zimbabwe Human Rights Organisation: FOUNDER	

Signatures Signed by: Petitioners

Name	Organization	Signature
John C Burke	ZHRO Founder	
Chief Felix Ndiweni <i>See Wiki Link</i>	MyRight2Vote Chair and Traditional Ndebele Traditional Leader {In Exile due to threats}	
Model Pamire	CCC UK Province Organising Secretary	
Basil Kamombe	CCC Manchester branch Member	
Josephine Jenje-Mudimbu	ZHRO & ROHR Member	
Dickson Chikwizo	CCC Manchester Secretary Welfare & ZHRO member	



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Appendices

Appendix 1: Amnesty International Zimbabwe

<https://www.amnesty.org.zw/2024/08/zimbabwe-authorities-must-end-massive-crackdown-on-dissent-before-sadc-summit/>

August 9, 2024

Authorities must end massive crackdown on dissent before SADC summit

- More than 160 people arrested since mid-June before upcoming SADC summit in Harare
- Evidence of torture or other ill-treatment
- “Sets a dangerous tone for the bloc’s commitment to human rights” – Idriss Ali Nassah

Zimbabwean authorities must end their crackdown against opposition and civil society members ahead of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit scheduled for 17 August 2024 in Harare, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said today. The authorities must immediately and unconditionally release everyone arrested for exercising their rights.

Authorities must also promptly and effectively investigate allegations of torture or other ill-treatment of detainees and hold any suspected perpetrators accountable in fair proceedings, the groups said. Further, SADC must urgently demand an end to this assault on human rights as it prepares to hand the bloc’s leadership to Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

“Since mid-June, Zimbabwean authorities have conducted a massive crackdown on dissent. More than 160 people have been arrested so far including elected officials, opposition members, union leaders, students and journalists,” said Khanyo Farise, Amnesty International’s Deputy Regional Director for East and Southern Africa.

“The authorities must stop committing such violations and immediately release all detainees. Khanyo Farise, Deputy Regional Director for East and Southern Africa”

“Security forces have tear-gassed people in a private residence, beaten people so badly they needed hospitalization, forcibly disappeared people for hours and tortured people in custody. The authorities must stop committing such violations and immediately release all detainees.”

SADC leaders must condemn the Zimbabwe government’s human rights violations and demand that the authorities reverse course by releasing everyone unjustly arrested before the situation worsens further, the groups said. President João Lourenço of Angola, who is the SADC chairperson, and Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema, who chairs its Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation Organ, need to speak out.

A wide-ranging crackdown

The current crackdown began on 16 June, when police raided the home of the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) party leader, Jameson Timba, during a private gathering and arrested 78



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people. Police fired tear gas and beat people with batons, resulting in multiple injuries, including one requiring surgery.

The authorities charged the group with “gathering with intent to promote public violence and disorderly conduct” and held them for more than two days without bringing them before a court, in violation of Zimbabwean law. The authorities released two children and granted bail to one adult, but 75 people remain arbitrarily detained.

On 24 June, police arrested 44 members of the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU), including its president, Emmanuel Sitima, and forced them to pay fines for “disorderly conduct” before releasing them. Police then re-arrested Sitima for “criminal nuisance” before releasing him the next day on bail.

On 27 June, Zimbabwe President Mnangagwa warned against “opposition political parties bent on peddling falsehoods and instigating acts of civil disorder, especially before, during and after regional and world state events.” Hours later, police outside the Harare Magistrate’s Court beat and arrested peaceful protesters, who were demanding the release of the people arrested at Timba’s house.

The next day, Information Minister Jenfan Muswere threatened “elements within the opposition, certain politicians, and some civil society organizations,” saying that “their days are numbered.”

On 29 June, police arrested five members of the National Democratic Working Group social justice movement at a private home in Harare during a meeting to raise funds for impoverished families, then released them. On 1 July, the police broke up a memorial service for a CCC member killed in 2022. Police arrested another six people affiliated with the Community Voices Zimbabwe media organization in Gokwe on 3 July before releasing them without charge.

- The Zimbabwe authorities’ intensified crackdown and the dismantling of fundamental freedoms is directly linked to the government’s hosting of the SADC summit in Harare.
- Idriss Ali Nassah, senior Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch

On 31 July, state agents pulled four activists off a plane before take-off at Robert Gabriel Mugabe Airport and forcibly disappeared them for nearly eight hours. Lawyers later documented evidence of torture and other ill-treatment, including extensive bruising on the Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe leader, Robson Chere, reportedly requiring urgent medical attention. The authorities charged the four activists with “disorderly conduct” for participating in the 27 June protest outside the Magistrate’s Court.

The authorities have arrested more than 30 people across Zimbabwe since 1 August, including Sitima for a third time, a parliamentarian and 13 others in Kariba town, a city council member, a senator and a religious leader. Most arrests were related to protests or supporting opposition parties. On 8 August, masked people attempted to break into the offices of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition civil society organization in Harare.

“The serious violations we are witnessing, including violent attacks, abductions, torture, arbitrary arrests and other abuses against the opposition, government critics and activists are just the latest



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example of the failure of President Mnangagwa’s government to promote, protect and respect basic human rights,” said Idriss Ali Nassah, senior Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch.

SADC has said nothing publicly about these human rights violations. The bloc needs to take a clear stand against the crackdown in Zimbabwe, especially as President Mnangagwa prepares to take over the SADC chairmanship, the groups said. The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights should demand the immediate and unconditional release of everyone arbitrarily detained simply for exercising their rights.

“The Zimbabwe authorities’ intensified crackdown and the dismantling of fundamental freedoms is directly linked to the government’s hosting of the SADC summit in Harare,” Nassah said. “It sets a dangerous tone for the bloc’s commitment to human rights under the upcoming chairmanship of Zimbabwe President Mnangagwa.”

While SADC must address the clampdown in Zimbabwe now, it must also use the Harare summit and President Mnangagwa’s chairmanship to improve respect for human rights across the region, in line with the SADC treaty.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch

Appendix 2: Zimbabwe Catholic Bishop’s Conference

ZIMBABWE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE: GENERAL SECRETARIAT

<https://www.newzimbabwe.com/deeply-troubling-zimbabwes-catholic-bishops-concerned-about-rising-tensions-ahead-of-regional-summit/>

PO. Box CY738 Causeway, Harare AFRICA SYNOD HOUSE

Tel: 705368/9 Fax: 704001 E-mail: gensee@ache.co.

29:31 Selous Ave, Harare

A STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

9 AUGUST 2024

"Hate What Is Evil; Cling to What Is Good" (Romans 12:9)

The Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference (ZCBC) notes with deep concern the prevailing situation in the country. We all are conscious of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Heads of States meeting that is to take place beginning on the 17th of August 2024. It is in preparation for this important meeting that we are seeing the resurgence of some ugly vices. This is sad, for in a democratic nation that knows the value of human dignity, freedom of association and of speech, such vices have no place as they contradict some of the fundamental values that form the bedrock of our national Constitution.

Generally, people with grievances tend to take advantage of big meetings to air their views. We have seen people positioning themselves to do this in the past and are doing so now. This phenomenon is not unique to Zimbabwe. Governments often struggle to deal with such realities. Some tend to be



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repressive, but such responses are self-defeating. As the Catholic Bishops we are worried and saddened that to silence the dissenting voices and to quell possible demonstrations violence, torture, and abductions seem to be the only options deployed. Why not try dialogue with those who feel aggrieved by the present state of our country?

As Zimbabweans we are people with a culture of tolerance, and we value diversity. Let this be seen in how we conduct our businesses and how we articulate our grievances. We appeal to all concerned, to exercise their rights responsibly and to the government we call for restraint. The prevailing situation in the country does no one any good. Recently, we have seen the wanton arrests of citizens under frivolous charges. Some of the arrested have been denied bail. Surely even those who 'have committed crimes' deserve to be treated in a just manner. They cannot be denied their fundamental rights. Here the adage, 'justice delayed is justice denied,' rings true. Let us safeguard the human rights enshrined in our Constitution.

As we once appealed before the August 2023 elections, we urge our politicians again and those in government to exercise their duties responsibly. There is no need for the toxic, inflammatory rhetoric that is awash in the media. We would like to remind our politicians of the words of our Lord that, "To whom much is given; much will be required..." (Luke 12: 48). With the positions of leadership that you hold, you have been entrusted with much, and we ask you to use your positions of influence to animate all the people of Zimbabwe, including those who may disagree with your decisions and policies.

As the SADC summit draws near, we appeal to the law enforcers that they execute their duties professionally. It is prudent that investigations are done first and then crime perpetrators are arrested. It is never the other way round. As we prepare to welcome the SADC Heads of States, we implore all citizens to be law abiding, and to the government we insist on restraint. Together let us build a country where peace, justice and unity are the banners under which we rally.

We pray that we may never allow evil to overcome us and that we may all live together in harmony, respecting each other and respecting our sacred Constitution.

+Rt. Rev. Paul Horan, O. Carm., Bishop of Mutare Diocese, ZCBC President. +Mt. Rev. R.C. Ndlovu, Archbishop of Harare Archdiocese, ZCBC Vice President. +Rt. Rev. Raphael M.M. Ncube, Bishop of Hwange Diocese, ZCBC Secretary and Treasurer.

+Mt. Rev. Alex Thomas S.V.D., Archbishop of Bulawayo Archdiocese. +Rt. Rev. Rudolf Nyandoro, Bishop of Gweru.

+Rt. Rev. Raymond Mupandasekwa, C.Ss.R., Bishop of Masvingo Diocese and Administrator of Chinhoyi Diocese.

+Rt. Rev. Eusebius J. Nyathi, Bishop of Gokwe Diocese.

Appendix 3: Council for Foreign Relations

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/zimbabwes-pre-sadc-crackdown>

Zimbabwe's Pre-SADC Crackdown



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As SADC leaders gather in Harare for their annual summit, Zimbabwe's government rounds up perceived "enemies of the state."

Blog Post by Michelle Gavin August 13, 2024 12:17 pm (EST)

In theory, the Southern African Development Community, or SADC, aims to promote regional integration in order "to achieve economic development, peace and security, and growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged." In practice, Zimbabwe's governing authorities are preparing to host the upcoming SADC summit by terrorizing political opponents, student activists, labor organizers, and community leaders—disrupting the peace and security of Zimbabwean citizens in a quest to silence anyone who might point out the way government corruption impedes economic development.

It's certainly true that Zimbabwe's government engages in repression as a matter of regular order; its record of documented human rights abuses is decades-long. But recently, President Emmerson Mnangagwa has been explicit in suggesting that his perceived political enemies wish to disrupt the summit, justifying the ratcheting up of draconian measures including torture, disappearances, and beatings of peaceful protesters in the name of being a good host. In his Orwellian telling, his government's violent crackdown will ensure tranquility.

Mnangagwa's position is as revealing as it is absurd. When he and his deputies speak about peace and security, they mean peace and security for themselves, not for the people of Zimbabwe as a whole. When they talk about prosperity, they are talking about enriching themselves, not the citizenry as a whole. They claim that opponents, activists, and whistleblowers are agents of shadowy foreign powers because they confuse their own interests with the national interest. Protecting their access to power and wealth is their entire *raison d'être*. Sadly, too many governments of SADC member states understand their purpose the same way. That's why they merely "noted" the substantial problems with Zimbabwe's last elections, and it's why they will feign ignorance of the campaign of terror unleashed in preparation for their visit to Harare.

One might imagine that the recent pivotal South African elections—which illustrated how popular discontent with corruption and unmet promises can dent the political power of even the most storied liberation party on the continent—would prompt reflection and reform in the region. But in Zimbabwe, the lessons learned have prompted the powerful to cling even more tightly to their privilege, and dole out punishment to the very people they claim to represent.

Appendix 4: i-Petition regarding Zimbabwe

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/sign-this-petition-to-standupforzimbabwe-against>

#StandUpForZimbabwe Campaign Against Corruption and State-Sponsored Looting



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Fellow Zimbabweans, we find ourselves at a critical juncture for our beloved nation. The current events unfolding in Zimbabwe are deeply alarming and demand our urgent attention.

The level of corruption in Zimbabwe has reached an unacceptable level, where a powerful few are seizing land, siphoning off taxpayer funds, and undermining the integrity of our democratic institutions.

The abuse of power by individuals with close ties to top officials is leading to the bullying and intimidation of government departments, parastatals, the police force, and even our independent institutions.

This is a clear betrayal of the principles and sacrifices of our liberation struggle, and the ethos of good governance as enshrined in our Constitution.

In the face of this, we, the people of Zimbabwe, can no longer stay silent.

1. We demand the immediate establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to thoroughly investigate the extent of state capture and the widespread financial scandals.
2. We also call for an independent audit of all government spending and financials to ensure transparency and accountability.
3. Those found guilty of corruption and looting must face the full force of the law, regardless of their political affiliations or connections.
4. We call upon all citizens to unite and take decisive action to promote and protect the good governance values of our Constitution.
5. Together, we must defend the integrity of our democratic institutions, the independence of the judiciary and Parliament, and ensure that the hopes and aspirations of the ordinary Zimbabwean take precedence over the greed and self-interest of a privileged few.

This is a critical moment in our nation's history.

Join us in this crucial campaign to #StandUpForZimbabwe and say no to corruption and state-sponsored looting.

You can participate by signing our online petition and/or sharing an image of yourself via your social media platform and write I #StandUpForZimbabwe against Corruption, then write your demands.

Together, we can reclaim our country and build a better future for all Zimbabweans.

Statement: Alarming Escalation of State Repression in Zimbabwe Ahead of 44th SADC Summit

Human rights and civil society organizations across the African continent are deeply concerned about the severe restriction of civic space and the systematic erosion of fundamental freedoms in Zimbabwe. The recent escalation in state-sponsored repression, characterized by abductions, arbitrary arrests and unjust denial of bail, torture, and harassment of human rights activists and opposition political members, represents a profoundly disturbing trend. This repressive environment



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is particularly concerning ahead of the 44th session of the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government scheduled for 17 August 2024. It constitutes a direct assault on the fundamental rights of Zimbabwean citizens and an egregious violation of democratic principles and international standards.

The recent brutal crackdown on the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) exemplifies this escalating repression. On Wednesday, July 24, in Harare, ZINASU students peacefully convened for their annual General Council meeting when armed police in riot gear stormed the ZESA National Training Centre. The police violently disrupted the gathering, subjecting unarmed students to severe beatings and arresting several attendees, resulting in numerous injuries. ZINASU, a united front of Zimbabwean tertiary students, is dedicated to protecting students from exploitation and oppression, defending academic freedoms and rights, and promoting democracy.

This incident is not isolated but rather part of a broader and deeply troubling pattern of intimidation, arbitrary arrests, and victimization of civic groups and the opposition. Currently, over 77 democracy activists are languishing in pre-trial detention after the High Court denied them bail following their arrest for holding a peaceful meeting at a private residence in Harare. The detained members include children, elderly men, and women, some of whom were severely beaten and tortured while in custody. Previously, opposition politician Mr. Job Sikhala was detained for 595 days from June 2022, frequently denied bail, kept in leg irons, in solitary confinement, and often denied access to his lawyer and relatives. Obert Masaraure, president of the Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) has also been subjected to numerous long drawn-out criminal proceedings and pre-trial detentions and was recently convicted of the crime of Obstruction of Justice for an alleged tweet in solidarity with an arrested colleague. The judiciary and law enforcement agencies are being weaponized to prosecute and persecute political opponents, signalling an alarming escalation of domestic repression.

Moreover, there has been a disturbing rise in extrajudicial killings, forming part of state-sanctioned violence against activists. Following the controversial August 2023 elections, several opposition members were abducted, tortured, and killed, including political activist Mr. Tapfumaneyi Masaya, who was abducted, tortured, and murdered on November 12, 2023. These incidents highlight the ongoing injustices against defenceless citizens and the relentless shrinking of democratic space. Additionally, recent death threats issued by Zimbabwe's Information Minister, Mr. Jenfan Muswere, accusing the opposition and civil society organizations of planning to instigate chaos and subversive activities, further exacerbate fears. President Mnangagwa's remarks warning against "rogue elements" inciting civil disorder ahead of the SADC Summit underscore the state's intent to suppress dissent.

On 31 July 2024, pro-democracy activist Namatai Kwekweza, trade unionist Robson Chere, and former councillor, opposition member Samuel Gwenzi and Vusumuzi Moyo were apprehended and removed by suspected security service officers from a domestic flight headed to Victoria Falls for a civil society workshop. For at least eight hours they were held incommunicado, their whereabouts unknown to both family and lawyers. When their lawyers eventually accessed them, Robson Chere had been visibly tortured and was in great pain. During consultations with their lawyers all of them



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reported being tortured and subjected to cruel inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment. They have now been absurdly charged with disorderly conduct in a public place.

We remind the Zimbabwean government of its obligations under article 4 of the SADC Treaty which requires its member states to act in accordance with the principles of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Section 44 of the Zimbabwean Constitution mandates the respect, protection, promotion, and fulfilment of the rights and freedoms delineated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the right to freedom of assembly and association as specified in Section 58. These rights are also enshrined in international law and several binding regional instruments, including Articles 10 and 11 of the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), Article 8 of the African Charter, Articles 20 and 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Articles 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. These rights are central to Zimbabwe's constitutional democracy, providing a vital avenue for citizens to advance their objectives of promoting human rights and freedoms.

Gatherings of student unions, political parties and civil society organisations have never posed a security threat. We demand a clear and coherent explanation from the authorities for such heavy-handed actions, which only serve to heighten unnecessary security fears ahead of the SADC Summit.

~Ends~

Signed By:

1. Africa Unite (South Africa)
2. Africans Rising
3. Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CDD) Mozambique
4. Center for Strategic Litigation
5. Centre for Human Rights - University of Pretoria
6. Chapter One Foundation
7. Chitungwiza residents trust (CHITREST)
8. Coalition des volontaires pour la paix et Développement
9. Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations (CEHRO Ethiopia)
10. Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition
11. Democratic Alliance
12. DITSHWANELO - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights
13. Ecumenical Service on Southern Africa KASA
14. Friends of Angola (FOA)
15. Human Rights Forum, South Africa (HRFSA)
16. Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HURISA)
17. International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)
18. Khulumani Support Group
19. Langa Community Advice Services
20. Magamba Network (Zimbabwe)
21. Masvingo United Residents and Ratepayers Alliance (MURRA)
22. Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network (RMDDH)
23. National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders - Kenya



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24. Network of the independent Commission for Human rights in North Africa CIDH
25. Pan Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (African Defenders)
26. Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU)
27. Protection International Africa
28. Save Our Sacred Lands (SOSL, South Africa) Second Largest Political Party in the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
29. Seinoli Legal Centre (Lesotho)
30. Southern Africa Doctors for Human Rights (SADHR)
31. Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (Southern Defenders)
32. Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)
33. The Forge Foundation (TFF, South Africa)
34. The Mike Campbell Foundation (Zimbabwe/UK)
35. The Public Interest Practice (South Africa)
36. Ukuthula Trust
37. 'Women's Academy For Leadership and Political Excellence (WALPE)
38. 'Women's Institute for Leadership Development (WILD)
39. Youth and Society (YAS, Malawi)
40. Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD)
41. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association
42. Zimbabwe Human Rights Organisation {UK}
43. Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU)
44. Zimbabwe Solidarity Network (ZSN)

Together We Defend!!!!

Appendix 5: CCC Statement

CITIZENS COALITION FOR CHANGE CCC

Citizens, advocates of justice, members of the diplomatic corps and members of the public at large are reminded that their trial commences on Monday the 29th of July 2024. You are all implored and called upon to turn out in your numbers to offer your support and solidarity and to send a message to the government that weaponization of the law to punish and silence legitimate opposition leaders and human rights activists should and will not be a part of our political culture. In short, this is a call for local, regional and international solidarity to voice out our disagreement against the use of the law and justice system to prosecute political opponents.

Significantly, it is worth noting that the arrest of Senator Timba and others is not the only case of political arrest and persecution since the August 2023 disputed harmonized elections. A few days ago, more than 60 activists of the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) were brutally and violently arrested including their National President Emmanuel Sitima. The statics below highlight the escalating and disturbing trend of political persecution, including 3 rape victims in Muzarabani, displacements including evictions by Chiefs of villagers in Muzarabani for supporting the alternative.



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Presently, the top leadership of the alternative is under siege, either in detention, in hiding or one form of threat or the other. Many bare under threat of arrest and abduction for merely being members of the alternative. Several leaders report receiving anonymous calls threatening them. Church leaders who organized and submitted a petition in Zambia have been threatened and forced to flee their homes. Rampant Corruption, Rent-Seeking, Plunder and Pilferage.

The government of Zimbabwe has been the chief perpetrator of corruption, rent seeking and plunder of state resources, awarding lucrative contracts to themselves, their kith and kin and their cronies and proxies.

This is the root cause of the continued failure and regression of the national economy, pushing millions of Citizens into abject poverty and starvation. The partisan distribution of national resources extends to food distribution which has been highly politicized and weaponized against those perceived to hold opposition views. A prominent example is the late Mboneni Ncube's family who have been repeatedly been denied food. Mboneni was brutally murdered by suspected Zanu PF activists at an opposition campaign rally in Kwekwe. Several high profile corruption cases have been reported and exposed but no arrests have been made.

Mr. Wicknell Chivhayo who has been named in several high profile scandals remains not only scot-free but boastful that nothing will happen to him. We continue to vehemently denounce corruption and call on members of the public to report, expose and denounce corruption whenever and wherever it raises its ugly head.

Political and Institutional Illegitimacy

It is common cause that the August 2023 harmonized elections were fraudulently flawed and did not produce a legitimate and outright winner. This is acknowledged by all election observer missions, including SADC. This means that the government currently in place in Zimbabwe is illegitimate and not properly constituted in terms of the laws of the country, it is a de facto government. This is further exacerbated by the unlawful recall of our parliamentary and local government representatives elected on the same disputed elections. This has delegitimized the current parliament.

We insist on the reinstatement of our lawfully elected officials and the removal of the imposters imposed by Mr. Tshabangu and others in connivance with Zanu PF.

The weaponization and capture of the judiciary and the disputed Presidency of Mr. Mnangagwa means that Zimbabwe now suffers political and institutional illegitimacy.

The three key institutions of the state,

- namely the executive,
- the judiciary and
- the legislature

have been bastardized and delegitimized. It is our considered view that the coming of SADC into Zimbabwe is a welcome and rare opportunity to help foster a political solution to the Zimbabwe's



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challenges, restore legitimacy and avert the deteriorating political situation. The issue of the disputed elections ought to be foremost on the SADC agenda with a view to facilitate dialogue and ultimately a political settlement between the two contending Presidential candidates namely Advocate Nelson Chamisa and Emmerson Mnangagwa. There is no other alternative to this dialogue.

Promise Mkwanzani

National Spokesperson

ONE PEOPLE ONE NATION ONE VISION

Appendix 6: Statement by Dickson Chikwizo

ZIMBABWE:

THE SICK CHILD OF SADC, IN INTENSIVE CARE.

ZANU PF President Emmerson Mnangagwa is aggravating the citizens of Zimbabwe by unleashing violence, torture, random arrests, abductions, threats, and repression against all {perceived or otherwise} 'opposition' by targeting, social, and human rights activists.

Since the arrest of Senator Jameson Timba and the Avondale 78, {16th JUNE 2024} there has been an escalation of suppression throughout the country against opposition, social, and Human Rights activists.

There is now an operation in motion to hunt them down.

Zimbabwe is under siege from the ZANU PF 'criminal regime' that's crushing every dissenting voice.

The regime is also doing all this to protect their 'loot' and criminal network that benefits from their corrupt access to public funds.

ZANU PF illegal government stole August 2023 elections. Therefore, they fear the democratic space and power of the citizens.

Zimbabweans are exercising their right to the constitution, in demonstration to remind SADC of their August 2023 SEOM report on Zimbabwe. Adopted on 31st August 2023.

"13.3 The SEOM noted that, as detailed in sections 6 and 7 of this report, some aspects of the Harmonised Elections fell short of the requirements of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, the Electoral Act, and the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021)."

*"13.4 The SEOM calls for all concerned parties to ensure that any grievances with respect to the election results are channelled through the appropriate legal processes **to ensure the exhaustion of domestic legal remedies.**"*

https://www.veritaszim.net/sites/veritas_d/files/ZIM%20SEOM%20FINAL%20REPORT%20SUBMISSION.pdf

In addition, other observer missions with International acclaim voiced more serious concerns.



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*In light of its overall findings, **The Carter Center** concludes that the 2023 electoral process did not adequately respect Zimbabwe's regional and international commitments for democratic and inclusive elections, undermining contestants' ability to compete on an equal basis and preventing the genuine expression of the will of the Zimbabwean people.*

<https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/final-report-election-observation-mission-zimbabwe-harmonized-elections-august-23-24-2023>

The European Union Observer Mission was also very critical

"Citizen observers faced severe restrictions due to a shrinking space for civic activities, administrative barriers, pressure, consistent intimidation, and even mass arrests on election day. A raid took place on election night where some 40 members of key reputable citizen observer organisations such as Zimbabwe Electoral Support Network (ZESN) and Electoral Resource Centre (ERC), part of the internationally recognised Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM), were arrested for "coordinating the alleged release of election results". They were held without legal counsel for some 12 hours and, although released on bail, still face upcoming court proceedings."

"THE ELECTION RESULTS COULD NOT BE INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED due to the absence of publicly available data, disaggregated by polling station, which is a key good practice, and the undermining of the sample-based projection of results that was to be conducted by citizen observer groups. Despite public rejections of the presidential outcomes by some opposition representatives, no contestant lodged a formal appeal against the election results. The post-electoral environment saw a further deterioration in the human rights situation, due to crackdowns on civil society, with certain human rights defenders and opposition figures targeted."

<https://www.eas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2023/EU%20EOM%20ZWE%202023%20FR.pdf>

Conclusions

Our actions are loud and clear. Emmerson Mnangagwa doesn't qualify for the SADC chairmanship, nor should his claim to be "President of Zimbabwe" be acknowledged by the International Community and SADC!

The SADC leaders will be imprudent to ignore what has recently taken place, leading to the days of the SADC summit on the 17th August 2024.

Emmerson D Mnangagwa has put Zimbabwe on the agenda of the SADC, not about elections but about Human Rights and violence that were carried out in the route to SADC industrialisation Roadshow and Summit.

However, Emmerson Mnangagwa is actively suppressing 'protest' by cracking a brutal force of abductions, arrests, including torture and detaining {any, or perceived} dissenting voices.

5th August 2024:



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Dickson Chikwizo

Appendix 7: Zanu PF Structures in the UK

<https://zhro.org.uk/155-zanu-pf-spies-in-the-uk>

The [Zanu PF] Party Organs:

This document is directly from the Zanu PF website in Zimbabwe

{ <https://zanupf.org.zw/party-organs> } – it is their ‘thinking’ & structures which enables their total control. The comments by those strongly opposed to Zanu PF are in italics – to try and understand the PARANOIA AND PSYCHOSIS THAT DOMINATES THIS MILITARY JUNTA {the most apt description of Zanu PF – as they are as far from a democracy as it is possible to position themselves!}

Understanding the enemy;

Understand the Nature and Purpose of this Structure to see how it operates to oppress, condition and control a large population over a wide area.

The Party Cells

The cell is the vanguard of the Party at the level of the village and the community, representing its **[Zanu PF’s]** interest, expressing its aspiration and mobilizing the membership to work together for their area’s development. Members of Cell Executive Committee hold Office for a period of one year. So the heart beat of the party is the Cell.

ZANU PF is people and people are ZANU PF are people *{this part makes little sense!}*.

The Branches

The branch is made up of **ten cells**. Its Executive Committee is elected every two years at a Branch Conference by delegates representing each of the ten cells.

The Districts

The district consists of **10 Branches** whose delegates elect the District Executive Committee once every two years.

District Coordinating Committee (DCC)

The DCC consists of elected members from the branches who represent the **main wing, women’s league** and the **youth league**.

The Provinces

The province consists of as many Administrative Districts as there are in a Province and all Party Districts. Members of the Provincial Executive Council are elected at Provincial Conference by the delegates representing each Party district in the province. The provincial elections are held once every three years.



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The National Consultative Assembly

The National Consultative Assembly comprises members of the Central Committee, National Assembly of the Women's League and their deputies, the 10 provincial executive councils, former members of the Central Committee on account of their contribution to the liberation struggle **{more than 44 years ago – it's time this was updated}** or development of the country after independence **{an excuse to shoe-horn in those who Zanu PF wish to favour for monetary gain}**.

It receives, hears and debates any major matters of policy as the President and First Secretary or Central Committee shall from time to time determine **{it is a command structure – ED may listen but he will not hear – it is by definition a ruthless dictatorship top down only – except to punish those the Zanu PF leadership fear}** .

It also makes recommendations to the Central Committee on any matters of policy relating to the party or government. It meets at least twice a year.

The Central Committee

The Central Committee is the principal organ of the Congress and consists of **230 members** drawn from the Party's country **10 Provinces**. It acts on behalf of Congress when it is not in session and among other things; implement all policies, resolutions, directives, decisions, and programs enunciated by Congress. The Central Committee meets once in three months.

The Politburo

The Politburo is the standing Committee of the Central Committee and **IMPLEMENTS ALL THE DECISIONS, DIRECTIVES, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.**

It meets at least once a month and is answerable to the Central Committee on all matters.

The Patriotic Front (PF) was formed as a political and military alliance between ZAPU and ZANU during the war against white minority rule in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). **{again this 44 year history bears no relevance to the current day requirement and needs of the Zimbabwean population}**