



SHARAN BURROW
PRESIDENT
PRÉSIDENTE
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PRESIDENTA

GUY RYDER
GENERAL SECRETARY
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
GENERALSEKRETÄR
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His Excellence Mr. Robert G. Mugabe,
President,
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TUR/MCH

15 March 2007

Zimbabwe Police raid on ZCTU offices

Dear Mr. President,

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), representing 304 affiliated member organisations, with a total membership of 168 million workers in 153 countries and territories, including Zimbabwe, is shocked at what happened on the 13 March in your country. According to our information, CIO officials and police ransacked ZCTU premises, assaulted three ZCTU staff members and detained the organisation's Financial Administrator Galileo Chirebvu. While it is believed that Chirebvu was later released, campaign materials reportedly with names of organizers and supporters of a 2-day stay-away planned for 3 and 4 April were removed by police.

Africa's trade unions have also denounced the Government's detention of Mr. Tsvangirai, leader of the Movement for Democratic Change and other human rights activists during the "The Save Zimbabwe Campaign" on 11 March. This ruthless attack on Mr. Tsvangirai has left him with severe head injuries, including a cracked skull and severe internal bleeding, sustained while in police custody.

The ZCTU had been in discussions with the Labour Minister in an effort to find solutions to the spiraling economic crisis besetting Zimbabwe. A preliminary tripartite meeting took place on 12 March to arrange a full meeting for the next day. This attack, however, has shattered prospects for constructive negotiations.

These actions by the Zimbabwean Government have been widely condemned by the UN Secretary General, the European Union and the governments of many countries, such as the United States, Zambia and the Republic of South Africa, whose Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Aziz Pahad, has been reported as urging the Zimbabwean Government on behalf of his country to enforce the rule of law, including the respect for the rights of all Zimbabweans.

The International Trade Union Confederation urges you to order the immediate release without charge of all persons detained in the March 11th and 13th events, to guarantee the safety and physical and psychological integrity of all ZCTU officials, staff,

members and all other democracy activists, to ensure that all victims of the above-mentioned events be provided with medical assistance if so needed, to further ensure that interference into internal trade union affairs be stopped at once and to order that all materials confiscated from the ZCTU be returned unconditionally and with immediate effect.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guy Ryde". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and 'R'.

General Secretary