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His Excellency Mr. Robert G. Mugabe,
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HTUR/FW

11 June 2008

Renewed attacks against the Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ)

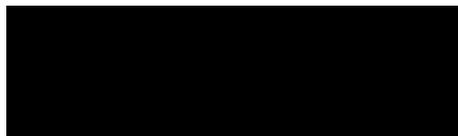
Dear Mr. President,

Less than a month ago, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) wrote to you to protest against the baseless arrest of PTUZ General Secretary and Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) General Council member Raymond Majongwe. Unfortunately, we already have to write to you again, due to a series of renewed attacks against the PTUZ.

On Friday 6 June, Mr. **Tinarwo**, member of the PTUZ, was abducted and seriously assaulted at a lodge called Green Diamond, which is apparently owned by a senator who belongs to the ZANU PF. The day after, on Saturday 7 June, Mr. **Moses Mhaka**, PTUZ coordinator for the Gokwe region, was assaulted and severely beaten up in the Gokwe Business Centre by a group of about 15 people who also belonged to ZANU PF. They took his ID card from him, as well as other documents. He and the PTUZ were accused of masterminding the defeat of the ZANU PF party in and around the Gokwe region.

On Monday 9 June, at 8:45 a.m., the same group of people stormed the PTUZ offices in Gokwe. They ransacked the office, grabbed a number of documents which they took with them, and forced the PTUZ secretary, who was attending to some members at that point, to close down the Gokwe office. The instructions to this effect were very clear: *"Today, 9 June, is the last day this office should open"*.

Mr. President, these are only the latest incidents in a constant series of relentless attacks on the PTUZ. After the abovementioned arrest, Raymond Majongwe has suffered constant threats and intimidation, like for example when he was warned by the police that, if the PTUZ would think about calling a strike, they would come and "deal with him". On another occasion, the police raided the premises where the PTUZ was holding a Women Empowerment Workshop and threatened to arrest the union's leadership.



May I remind you, Mr. President, that Zimbabwe has an obligation to respect the fundamental rights of trade unions and their leaders in accordance with ILO Convention 87 on the freedom of association and the right to organise, which has been ratified by your country. It is obvious that a union and its leadership cannot carry out their legitimate trade union activities in a climate of constant harassment, intimidation, threats and violence, as the one pictured above. Unfortunately, this appears to continue to be the sad reality on the ground in Zimbabwe.

I urge you to make sure the persons who are responsible for the aforementioned attacks are brought to justice and duly punished, and that Mr. Majongwe, Mr. Tinarwo and Mr. Mhaka receive appropriate compensation for the damage they suffered. It is also paramount that the PTUZ Gokwe office is allowed to function normally again.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary

Cc: Embassy of Zimbabwe, Brussels
ZCTU, Harare
ITUC-AF, Nairobi
ILO ACTRAV, Geneva