



ITUC INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION CSI CONFÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE INTERNATIONALE
CSI CONFEDERACIÓN SINDICAL INTERNACIONAL IGB INTERNATIONALER GEWERKSCHAFTSBUND

Bd. du Roi Albert II, 5, Bte 1, B – 1210 Bruxelles Belgique
Tel. +32 (0) 2224 0211 Fax +32 (0) 2201 5815 E-mail info@ituc-csi.org http://www.ituc-csi.org

SHARAN BURROW
PRESIDENT
PRÉSIDENTE
PRÄSIDENTIN
PRESIDENTA

GUY RYDER
GENERAL SECRETARY
SECÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
GENERALSEKRETÄR
SECRETARIO GENERAL

His Excellency Mr. Robert G. Mugabe,
President,
Causeway,
Harare
Zimbabwe

Fax: + 263.4.70.38.58

TUR/JS

9 May 2008

ZCTU leadership arrested

Dear Mr. President,

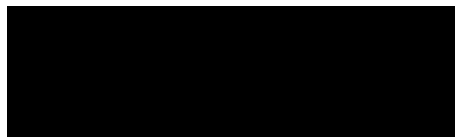
Only two months ago the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) wrote to you to condemn the use of torture against leaders of the Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ). Now we are obliged to write to you again to protest in the strongest terms against the arrest and continued detention of leaders of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), President, **Lovemore Motombo** and Secretary General **Wellington Chibebe**.

The ITUC has been informed that the leaders were brought in for questioning on 8 May 2008 in connection with speeches they had made on May Day. The police had been looking for them since then and on 6 May heavily armed police had come to their homes. On 7 May they reported to the police station but were not taken in before the day after. They remain in custody at the Harare Central Police Station at the time of writing.

We understand that they have been charged with 'inciting people to rise against the government and reporting falsehoods about people being killed'.

The ITUC is extremely concerned at this development, and recalls the brutal beatings they were subjected to when they were detained in September 2006. It is well documented by independent NGOs that violence and torture against prisoners are serious concerns in Zimbabwe. The ITUC condemns unequivocally all violence and torture against trade unionists, and call on you government to guarantee the physical integrity of the detainees.

We also want to remind you that under the jurisprudence of the ILO, freedom of speech and other fundamental freedoms are essential for the normal exercise of trade union rights. Trade union leaders have a right to comment on the election, as the outcome might



have an impact on economic and social policies affecting trade union members. Under ILO Convention 87 on freedom of association and the right to organise, ratified by your country, you have an obligation to refrain from arresting trade union leaders carrying out legitimate union activities.

The international trade union movement will report the arrests to the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association, and will not hesitate to bring the matter of trade union repression to other supervisory bodies of the ILO, and to its affiliates and partners around the world.

The ITUC strongly urges you to immediately release Mr. Lovemore Motombo and Mr. Wellington Chibebe and drop all charges against them. In the meantime, we urge you to guarantee their physical integrity and well-being.

The ITUC hope that you will pay prompt attention to this very serious matter.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary

Cc: The Embassy of Zimbabwe to Belgium