



CiZC to strengthen people to people solidarity

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CiZC Youth chair remains unshaken

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## Judicial capture a sad reality in Zimbabwe

By Crisis Report

HIGH Court Judge, Justice Erica Ndewere was recently suspended for 'misconduct' after she granted bail to MDC Alliance Vice National Chairperson, Job Sikhala on September 22, 2020.

Sikhala had spent a month detained at Chikurubi Maximum prison on charges of inciting public violence.

Investigations into the suspension of Justice Ndewere however revealed that the Head of the Judicial Services Commission, Chief Justice Luke Malaba was unhappy with the granting of bail to Sikhala hence the move to suspend Justice Ndewere.

Justice Ndewere received the letter of her alleged misconduct from Malaba despite the fact that Malaba is only empowered to supervise Supreme Court Judges while High Court judges are supervised by the Judge President.

Malaba's interference in the case of Justice Ndewere reveals the coordinated capture of the judiciary and interference into the work of judges and magistrates in Zimbabwe.

In the case of Justice Ndewere, Chief Justice Malaba's role in the capture of the judiciary has been laid bare.

Quite often, the state's capture of the judiciary has allowed for persecution by prosecution with opposition and civic society activists having to endure lengthy periods in detention on frivolous and trumped up charges.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Spokesperson, Marvelous Khumalo said it is an open secret that Zimbabwe's judiciary is captured.

"We would like to believe that in Zimbabwe, judicial capture is a reality. There is a lot of interference in how the judiciary is composed. The President plays a big role in the composition of the judiciary and that alone compromises the independence of judiciary. Recently we had Justice Francis Bere being fired by the President and that is a clear sign of interference," said Khumalo.

## Re-engagement: Zim needs to do much more



MDC Alliance President Nelson Chamisa (left) has been raising the legitimacy card accusing President Emmerson Mnangagwa (Right) of stealing the 2028 elections with assistance from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). In response, President Mnangagwa has been sarcastically asking opposition political parties to calm down and watch while he steers the ship in the right direction.

HUMAN rights violations which include abductions, murder, arbitrary arrests and a general clampdown on opposition and civic society activists have largely alienated Zimbabwe from the international community.

This has been coupled by corruption and disregard of property rights which has seen international investors shunning Zimbabwe while relationships between the Southern African country and international financial institutions remain strained.

A history of disputed elections as well as a legitimacy crisis on the part of the ruling party, Zanu (PF) has also further alienated Zimbabwe from major global partners.

When the late Robert Mugabe was deposed from power in November 2017 through a military coup, there were assurances of a new dispensation that many hoped would result in key reforms that would see Zimbabwe moving away from the dark past.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa assured the nation and the international community that his new administration was ready to work towards a peaceful and prosperous Zimbabwe.

However, events that unfolded after his ascendancy to power proved otherwise.

In January 2019, about 12 people were shot dead by the military following protests over fuel hikes. Following the army shootings, the military was deployed in various cities and several cases of human rights abuses were recorded while an estimated 600 people were arrested.

Then came the 2018 national elections which proved to be a costly charade with pre-determined outcomes and undoubtedly failed the credibility test while there was militarisation of key institutions including the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

In August 2020, 6 people were killed following protests over electoral theft and cases of abuse of foreign journalists were also recorded.

The army killings followed numerous threats from Zanu PF heavyweights that President Mnangagwa was ready to shoot for power.

<https://dailynews.co.zw/articles-2018-05-25-mnangagwa-will-shoot-to-keep-power/>

What followed after the brutal army killings was a serious purge on opposition and civic society activists. Resultantly, the democratic space in Zimbabwe further shrank with the military being unleashed on unarmed civilians.

Cases of rape, torture, abductions, arbitrary arrests surged while cases

of corruption and abuse of state resources continued to impact negatively on economic growth.

Zimbabwe continues to witness several cases of human rights abuses being perpetrated by the security services in the guise of enforcing COVID 19 regulations.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Spokesperson, Marvelous Khumalo said Zanu (PF) was merely politicking on the issue of 'sanctions'.

He said that human rights violations, lack of respect for the constitution and disputed elections had largely alienated Zimbabwe from global partners.

"The government knows what it should do. Firstly it needs to adhere to the provisions of the constitution and there is need for constitutionalism to prevail. Secondly, there is need for the government of Zimbabwe to respect human rights. The government should stop abductions, forced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and clampdown of civic society activists, political activists, journalists and all other sections of the society viewed as opponents of the government.

"Remember that since time immemorial we have had disputed electoral results in the country and this should come to an end so that Zimbabwe is readmitted into the global family of nations," said Khumalo.

## CiZC seeks to strengthen people to people solidarity

By Crisis Reporter

ON September 12, 2020, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, in collaboration with the African Youths Solidarity Alliance hosted a discussion forum under the theme, "The role of youths in enhancing democracy under uncertain circumstances" and the discussion forum had a particular focus on Zimbabwe.

The discussion forum had participants from Namibia, South Africa, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

During the meeting, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Youth Committee Vice Chairperson, Ashton Bumhira appealed for solidarity from young African leaders in the fight for a democratic and economically developed Zimbabwe.

Following the discussion forum, the Southern Africa Refugees Protection (Namibia) petitioned the Zimbabwean embassy in Namibia over the continued human rights violations in Zimbabwe.

We publish the petition below which was signed by Lukeno Hangala, a Protection Officer at the Southern Africa Refugees Protection ;

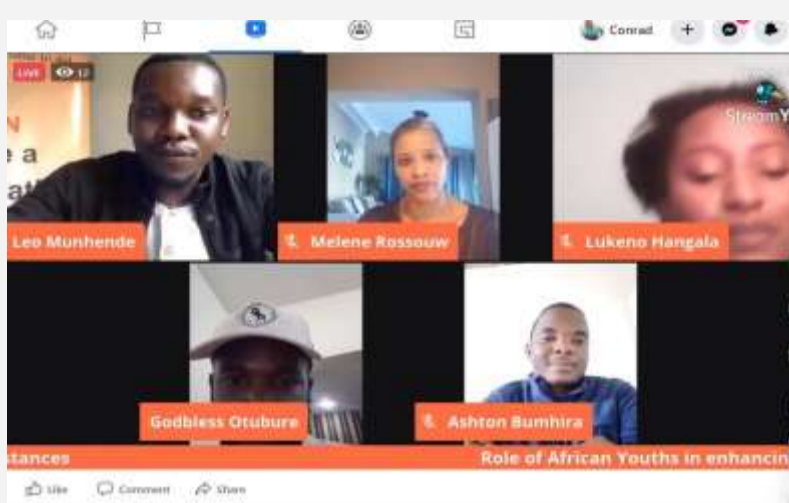
### PETITION BY SOUTHERN AFRICA REFUGEES PROTECTION TO THE ZIMBABWE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Date: 12 October 2020

I, Lukeno Hangala, together with Southern Africa Refugees Protection, after having participated in a virtual discussion on the "Role of Youths in Upholding Democracy Under Uncertain Circumstances", organised by the African Youths Solidarity Alliance (AYSA), with particular focus on Zimbabwe, am

Concerned;

About the continued shrinking of democratic space and criminalisation of civic society



Some of the participants who took part in the virtual discussion

work in Zimbabwe;  
About entrenchment of authoritarian rule and militarisation of key state institutions in Zimbabwe;  
Noting how Covid19 pandemic has led the government of Zimbabwe to curtail civil and political rights including social and economic rights under the guise of enforcing lockdown regulations;  
Cognizant of the importance of people to people solidarity in order to foster and entrench a culture of respect for human rights and constitutionalism;  
Alive to the worrying state capture by the military and oligarchs in Zimbabwe and subversion of rule of law;  
We do hereby petition the Zimbabwe High Commissioner to Namibia with the following demands:  
Ø That the government of Zimbabwe must uphold the

rule of law and respect for human rights  
Ø That the government of Zimbabwe must stop criminalisation of civic society work and persecution of opposition activists  
Ø That there is urgent need for demilitarisation of key state institutions in Zimbabwe  
Ø That political interference in the operation of the judiciary in Zimbabwe must stop  
Ø That the government of Zimbabwe should show sincerity in dealing with corruption which has largely contributed to the socio-economic crisis in Zimbabwe

<https://www.newzimbabwe.com/namibian-youths-confront-zim-ambassador-over-state-rights-abuses/>

<https://spiked.co.zw/southern-africa-refugees-protection-petitions-the-government-of-zimbabwe/>

<https://263chat.com/refugees-petitions-zim-gvt-over-rights-abuse/>

On September 29, 2020 Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition hosted its Third Regional Annual Conference under the theme "Whither Democracy & Human Rights in SADC?: Covid19, lockdowns & Basic Rights."

Participants at the meeting who were drawn from Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola, Zambia, South Africa, Lesotho and eSwatini noted the need for people to people solidarity in light of the human rights violations in the SADC region especially in this COVID 19 era.

## CiZC Youth Committee Chair remains unshaken in the fight for a democratic Zimbabwe



Takudzwa Ngadziore recently in remand prison

Muchehiwa in Bulawayo ahead of the July 31 protests.

Ngadziore remains unfazed in the face of persecution by the State.

"The month I spent in prison will never break me. There was a prison inside me before I was in prison. That should be noted. If they fail to respect our existence, then they are assured of our resistance. The regime should know that the barometers of class consciousness stand resolved on the position that justice for Tawanda Muchehiwa should be served.

DESPITE the abduction, torture and incarceration he has had to endure at the hands of the State, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Youth Committee Chairperson and Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) President, Takudzwa Ngadziore is determined to continue fighting for justice.

"Impala Car Rental should know that they should release information of those that abducted Tawanda Muchehiwa because there are several cases that are unknown in Zimbabwe. We have an abduction case of Itai Dzamara and Impala might be willing to answer this question," said Ngadziore.

Ngadziore was abducted by alleged state security agents on September 18, 2020 while addressing the media in Harare after which he was tortured and later handed over to the police.

"Impala Car Rental should know that they should release information of those that abducted Tawanda Muchehiwa because there are several cases that are unknown in Zimbabwe. We have an abduction case of Itai Dzamara and Impala might be willing to answer this question," said Ngadziore.

He was later released on bail on October 16, 2020.

"Impala Car Rental should know that they should release information of those that abducted Tawanda Muchehiwa because there are several cases that are unknown in Zimbabwe. We have an abduction case of Itai Dzamara and Impala might be willing to answer this question," said Ngadziore.

Ngadziore was charged with inciting public violence after he demanded an explanation from Impala Car Rental on their alleged involvement in the abduction of civic society and opposition activists. Impala Car Rental was implicated in the abduction of Tawanda

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition reiterates its demand for justice for Ngadziore and we implore Impala Car Rental to cooperate in releasing information on the abductors of Tawanda Muchehiwa.

## Communities in Zaka and Gutu demand accountability over devolution funds

By Heal Zimbabwe Trust

COMMUNITIES from Zaka and Gutu, who are part of Heal Zimbabwe Community Accountability Action Teams (CAATs), have raised concern over the lack of transparency on the way devolution is being rolled out. This came out during a dialogue meeting organised by two CAATs that operate in Gutu and Zaka as part of commemorations for the International Day of Rural Women on 15 October 2020.

Participants at the dialogue highlighted that they have only read in the press that devolution funds were already disbursed and that communities had already started the identification of development projects yet in Zaka there was no consultation or feedback meetings on how devolution was being rolled out.

"We have only read about devolution projects in the press and yet we have not been consulted. The Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing has not raised awareness as a way of enhancing participation by the citizens", said one participant.

Participants also highlighted that devolution is a constitutional provision voted for by thousands of Zimbabwe during the 2013 referendum and yet the same citizens do not own and participate effectively in the process.

"Devolution is provided for in Section 264 of the constitution and yet the people who voted for it are being excluded from the process, government must do more to ensure that they raise awareness on devolution and task communities to identify their own unique development projects to be undertaken under devolution. This helps to ensure that communities take ownership of the process and participate effectively", said another participant.

As part of resolutions, the dialogue meeting resolved that the CAATs were supposed to convene a meeting with representatives from the Rural District Councils (RDCs) so that they shed more light on their plan of action on devolution.

The meeting will also be attended by Traditional leaders and Councillors who are the local level Local Government structures responsible for development and ensuring that citizens participate actively in devolution through structures such as Village Development Committees (VIDCOs) and Ward Development Committees (WADCOS).

The dialogue meetings by CAATs are one among many interventions by Heal Zimbabwe to strengthen capacity of citizens to uphold participation, inclusion, transparency, accountability and responsiveness principles and mechanisms. Such interventions help build peaceful and socially cohesive communities.