

URGENT ACTION

FREE ARBITRARILY DETAINED OPPOSITION MEMBERS

On June 16, police arrested and arbitrarily detained 79 Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) members, including interim party leader, Jameson Timba. The group had gathered at Jameson Timba's house to commemorate the International Day of the African Child. On June 17, police charged the detainees with "gathering with intent to promote public violence and disorderly conduct." One person was given bail and 2 minors released, while 76 activists remain on remand as they await court proceedings. The Zimbabwean authorities must immediately and unconditionally release all 76 CCC members and drop all the politically motivated charges against them.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 66.24**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Honorable Ziyambi Ziyambi
Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs
Mgandane Dlodlo Building (New Gvt Complex)
Cnr Samora Machel Avenue & Simon Vengesai
Harare, Zimbabwe
Emails: pr@justice.gov.zw; justice@justice.gov.zw

Embassy of Zimbabwe in the United States
His Excellency Ambassador Tadeous T. Chifamba
1608 New Hampshire Avenue, NW,
Washington DC 20009
Email: general@zimembassydc.org
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

Dear Honorable Ziyambi Ziyambi, / Dear Ambassador Tadeous T. Chifamba

On June 16, police arrested and arbitrarily detained **79 Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) members**, including interim party leader, **Jameson Timba**, who had gathered at Jameson Timba's house to commemorate the International Day of the African Child. The arrest and arbitrary detention of the CCC members while exercising their rights to freedom of association, expression, and peaceful assembly is deeply concerning.

I have noted a worrying trend of suppression of civic space and intimidation and harassment of activists and opposition politicians ahead of the 44th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, due to take place on August 17. Your government has warned against "criminal and opportunistic elements within the opposition, certain politicians, and some civil society organizations" and threatened to use law enforcement to crackdown on human rights.

In light of the above, I call on you to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of the 76 Citizens Coalition for Change members (including Jameson Timba) and drop all charges against them as they are detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights. I further urge you and the authorities to uphold and ensure respect for the human rights of everyone in the country including the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Several people who attended the CCC member's court hearings were beaten by police and three were arrested for calling for the release of the group. The three were subsequently released on \$100 USD bail each.

People face growing restrictions to the exercise of their human rights including the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association ahead of the Southern African Development Community's Heads of State and Government Summit in Harare scheduled to take place on August 17.

On June 27, President Mnangagwa, while addressing the ZANU PF central committee, warned against 'rogue elements in the form of opposition political parties bent on peddling falsehoods and instigating acts of civil disorder, especially before, during and after regional and world state events' and said, 'such acts would be dealt with decisively'. On June 28, the information, publicity, and broadcasting minister issued a statement warning against "criminal and opportunistic elements within the opposition, certain politicians, and some civil society organizations" and that law enforcement will apprehend those who 'undermine the justice delivery through causing chaos and mayhem'.

On June 29, the members of the National Democratic Working group were arrested at a private residence in Kuwadzana, Harare for holding an 'unsanctioned' meeting. The group was having regarding the monthly monetary contribution to assist vulnerable and disadvantaged families. On July 3, police arrested another six people with the Community Voices Zimbabwe media organization in the town of Gokwe, in Zimbabwe's midlands.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: September 30, 2024

NAME AND PRONOUN: Jameson Timba (he/him) & Citizens Coalition for Change members (Male and Female/they)