

# URGENT ACTION

## ACTIVISTS HELD IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

**Thirty-nine of the 45 activists arrested in Harare on 19 February were freed after the treason charges against them were dismissed by a magistrate court. However, six activists remain in custody facing treason charges. Meanwhile, 24 activists arrested in Mutare, including a parliamentarian, had a hearing of the state's appeal on bail postponed.**

On 7 March, 39 social justice and human rights activists facing treason charges were freed after a magistrate in Harare dismissed the charges against them. They had spent more than two weeks in custody. The activists were part of a group of 45 activists arrested on 19 February after attending a lecture to discuss events in Egypt and Tunisia. However, **Munyaradzi Gwisai, Hopewell Gumbo, Antonater Choto, Welcome Zimuto, Eddson Chakuma and Tatenda Mombeyarara** were remanded in custody to 21 March because they were either directly linked to International Social Organisation which convened the meeting or were speakers at the meeting.

Lawyers representing the activists told the court that the detained activists were being held in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day. The lawyers also told the court that 11 women activists who had been detained at Chikurubi Women's Prison were forced to work for three hours a day in violation of their rights as pre-trial detainees.

Meanwhile, on 7 March a High Court judge postponed the hearing of an appeal filed by the State in the case of Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T) parliamentarian Douglas Mwonzora and 23 villagers arrested on allegations of public violence in Nyanga mid February. The case was postponed to 9 March after the judge noted that the record of proceedings was incomplete with some pages missing. The 24 MDC-T members are detained at Mutare Remand Prison.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in English or your own language:

- Highlighting your concern over the detention of the 45 activists in solitary confinement for more than two weeks and urging them to ensure the remaining six activists in custody are not subjected to torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, including not being detained in solitary confinement.
- Urging them to drop the treason charges against the six activists arrested solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression and to immediately and unconditionally release them.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 APRIL 2011 TO:

#### Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs

Hon Patrick Chinamasa  
Government of Zimbabwe  
New Government Complex  
P. Bag 7751, Causeway  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
Fax: +263 4 790901

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

#### The Attorney General

Johannes Tomana  
Government of Zimbabwe  
P. Bag 7714, Causeway  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
**Fax: +263 4 777049**  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney General**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 55/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR46/004/2011/en>

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