

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 340/03 (AFR 46/033/2003, 19 November 2003) Unlawful detention/ fear of ill-treatment/ possible prisoners of conscience (POCs)

**ZIMBABWE Lovemore Matombo (m), President Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU)
Wellington Chibebe m), Secretary General (ZCTU)
Up to 50 trade union and human rights activists**

Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) President Lovemore Matombo and Secretary General Wellington Chibebe and up to 50 trade union and human rights activists were released on 20 November. The trade union and human rights activists were released on bail and ordered to return the following day to answer charges of organising and participating in unauthorised street demonstrations. As a result of their release, the ZCTU called off the second day of a nationwide stay-away scheduled for 20 and 21 November.

Up to 100 trade union and human rights activists were arrested throughout the country on 18 November in order to prevent them from staging a protest against alleged human rights abuses and the economic crisis in Zimbabwe. While most of those arrested in other parts of the country were released, in the capital Harare, approximately 50 trade union and human rights activists including Lovemore Matombo and Wellington Chibebe were kept in detention for two days.

No further action by the UA network is requested at this time. Many thanks to those who sent appeals.