

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 247/06 (AFR 46/017/2006, 14 September 2006) - Fear for safety/ Ill-treatment/ health concern

**ZIMBABWE Lovemore MATOMBO (m), President of Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU)
Wellington CHIBHEBHE (m), Secretary General of ZCTU
Lucia MATIBENGA (f), First Vice President of ZCTU
Hundreds of members of the ZCTU and Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA)
Five babies**

Lovemore Matombo, Wellington Chibhebhe and Lucia Matibenga, all of whom are leaders of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), were released from police custody on 14 September 2006. They were tortured while in police custody at Matapi police station on 13 September and then transferred to Harare Central Police Station on 14 September before being released that day.

The hundreds of other members of the ZCTU and Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) members had all been released by 15 September. Some of the WOZA members had been held in detention for four nights. Though they were eventually granted access to their lawyers, adequate food and medical care were not provided. The pregnant woman among those detained had to be taken to hospital, where she delivered her baby. Both mother and baby are in good health.

In recent days, there have been further arrests, and reports of ill-treatment of people in police custody. Amnesty International has issued another UA (UA 253/06, AFR 46/019/2006, 22 September 2006), expressing grave concern about an emerging pattern of human rights violations being perpetrated by police against hundreds of human rights defenders involved in peaceful demonstration, including alleged torture and arbitrary detention.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is required on this case.