

Amnesty International**ZIMBABWE****Journalists****Case Sheet****SUMMARY**

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| FULL NAME | Iden Wetherell |
| YEAR OF BIRTH | |
| OCCUPATION | Editor, <i>Zimbabwe Independent</i> |
| LOCATION | Harare |
| CONCERNS | HARASSMENT |

CASE HISTORY

On 10 January 2004 police arrested three journalists from the private weekly newspaper *Zimbabwe Independent*. Editor Iden Wetherell, news editor Vincent Kahiya and chief reporter Dumisani Mulewa were released on bail and charged with criminal defamation over a report alleging that President Robert Mugabe had used a passenger plane from the national airline for personal travel. Four days later, police arrested the newspaper's manager Raphael Khumalo and reporter Itai Dzamara over the same report. Raphael Khumalo was later released without charge but charges of criminal defamation were brought against Itai Dzamara who was released on bail. The four men briefly appeared in court on 29 January and their case was further remanded to 1 April. No date was set for their trial.

Iden Wetherell was also arrested and released on bail in April 2002 and charged with criminal defamation on allegations of publishing a false story that the first lady, Grace Mugabe was involved in a labour dispute in a company where her brother was an employee. The charges were later changed to contravening Section 80 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) for allegedly writing "falsehoods" about the first lady. Iden Wetherell was cautioned and then released on the same day.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

In 2002, Iden Wetherell won the World Press Review's International Editor of the Year Award.

CURRENT ACTIONS

- Zimbabwe: Ongoing work on freedom of expression, association and assembly.