

ZIMBABWE TIME FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

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Hon. Lovemore Moyo,

I am concerned about the food insecurity in Zimbabwe. According to the World Food Programme, approximately five million people were in need of food aid by December 2008.

The government has used food as a political tool in rural areas. It has employed traditional leaders and local ZANU-PF activists to deny suspected opponents of the party access to cheap or relief maize, as part of its strategy to retain ZANU-PF's rural support base.

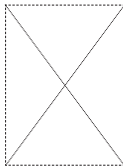
I urge you to ensure that allegations of discriminatory food distribution reported by Amnesty International from 2004 onwards are investigated and accountability mechanisms, including an ombudsman on food, are set up to ensure that government-subsidized food and food aid are distributed in a non-partisan manner.

Yours sincerely

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Image: Children collect maize fallen from a truck, Matabeleland South, March 2005
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ZIMBABWE: HUNGER IS NOT A POLITICAL TOOL

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