

ZIMBABWE Archbishop Pius Ncube

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Archbishop Pius Ncube who has received death threats on four different occasions since 26 June 2000.

On 29 June the President of Zimbabwe accused the Archbishop on national TV of having contributed to "the ethnic voting in favour of Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in Matabeleland."

More than 30 people have been killed during the recent election campaign in Zimbabwe. Amnesty International fears that retaliation against those supportive of the opposition might now occur.

Ncube is Archbishop of the catholic church in Bulawayo, the second largest city in Zimbabwe and the centre of Matabeleland. He has always spoken out strongly in favour of social justice and against human rights abuses.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Zimbabwe held its parliamentary elections on 24-25 June. The official election result gave the ruling ZANU (PF) 62 elected seats, whereas the main opposition party MDC got 57. In the elections the MDC won almost all seats in the three Matabeleland provinces with sound majorities. In the 1980s the government of Mugabe and his ZANU (PF) party was responsible for massive human rights violations in these provinces in which thousands of people were killed.

President Mugabe has a history of inciting his followers to violence against individuals and groups. In the election campaign the targets were whites, earlier they have been gays and lesbians and the country's students.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language to President Robert Mugabe:

- expressing concern over President Mugabe's statements about Archbishop Ncube, which Amnesty International believes could incite violence;
- calling on the president to respect everybody's right to freedom of speech;
- seeking assurances that no one will be targeted for their support of ideas countering President Mugabe's;
- urging the president to stop using inflammatory language, all threats of violence or other human rights abuses against his opponents.

Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language to police commissioner Augustine Chihuru:

- expressing concern about the threats directed towards Archbishop Ncube;
- calling for the police to impartially investigate these allegations with the aim of bringing the perpetrators to justice.

APPEALS TO:

President Robert Mugabe
Office of the President
Private Bag 7700
Causeway, Harare
Zimbabwe

Telegrams: President Mugabe, Harare, Zimbabwe

Fax: + 263 4 728 799 /708 557

Salutations: Your Excellency

Mr Augustine Chihuri
Police Headquarters
PO Box 8807
Causeway
Harare
Zimbabwe

Telegrams: Augustin Chihuri, Police Headquarters, Harare, Zimbabwe
Salutation: Dear Mr Chihuri

COPIES TO:

Amani Trust
2 Essex Rd. Hillside
Bulawayo
Fax: + 263-9-44016

The Bulawayo Chronicle
P.O.Box 585
Bulawayo
Fax +263-9-75522

and to diplomatic representatives of Zimbabwe accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 August 2000.