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**ORAL STATEMENT**  
**Item 6:**  
**Consideration of UPR reports: ZIMBABWE**

UN Human Rights Council  
50<sup>th</sup> session  
13 June – 8 July 2022

Mr. President,

While Zimbabwe has supported 168 out of 264 recommendations, Amnesty International is concerned that the lack of progress towards implementation of similar supported recommendations from previous reviews demonstrates a lack of political will to address entrenched human rights violations. We urge Zimbabwe to take meaningful steps to implement supported recommendations from this and previous reviews as soon as possible.

Many Zimbabweans are living in fear of being abducted, forcibly disappeared or tortured by state security forces for expressing themselves<sup>1</sup>. Regrettably, Zimbabwe noted 26 recommendations<sup>2</sup> for the ratification of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance which are critical to respect, promote and protect human rights in Zimbabwe. The government's position indicates that it is not prioritizing action on these important rights. We urge the swift ratification of these treaties and incorporation into domestic law.

The continued denial of the abduction of Joana Mamombe, Cecellia Chimbi and Netsai Marova from state custody in May 2020 and calling it 'staged,' and blaming victims, is regrettable<sup>3</sup>. Attempts to silence them from telling their story through stringent bail conditions only perpetuates impunity. We call on Zimbabwe to establish an independent, impartial, transparent and effective investigation into their disappearance and sexual and gender-based violence and bring suspected perpetrators to justice in fair trials, as well as provide access to justice and effective remedies for the victims.

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<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International, Submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review – 40th Session Of The UPR Working Group, January-February 2022, Zimbabwe: Entrenched Repression, [amnesty.org/en/documents/afr63/4521/2021/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr63/4521/2021/en/), p.9

<sup>2</sup> Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Zimbabwe, A/HRC/50/9, Recommendations 140.3, 140.5-7, 140.10-11, 140.19-38

<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Zimbabwe, A/HRC/50/9, Presentation by the State under Review, 30 p. 4

Mr. President,

Already restricted civic space in Zimbabwe is further threatened by the introduction of the Private Voluntary Organisations Amendment Bill, especially concerning as its timing appears to be an attempt to control, silence and criminalise the work of civil society in Zimbabwe in the lead up to the General Election in July 2023. The rationale for the introduction of the bill was to curb money-laundering and the financing of terrorism as recommended by the Financial Action Task Force. Despite being removed from the grey list by the Financial Action Taskforce, authorities have continued to push for this bill. If passed it would impose serious restrictions on the important work of civil society organizations in Zimbabwe

Finally, we urge the government to submit a mid-term report on progress towards implementation of supported recommendations and to use an Item 6 General Debate to bring this to the attention of UN Member States.

Thank you.