

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Public Statement

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### **Zimbabwe: Joint Appeal by Amnesty International, the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) and Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights**

Noting with grave concern the deepening humanitarian and human rights crisis in Zimbabwe, more than 200 African and international human rights and civic groups have come together to call on the African Union and the United Nations to take action.

Over the past four weeks the Government of Zimbabwe has orchestrated the widespread forced eviction of tens of thousands of informal traders and families living in informal settlements. During these forced evictions homes have been burnt and property destroyed. Many individuals have been arbitrarily arrested, detained, fined, abducted and/or beaten. Such actions continue unabated, and with impunity.

Tens of thousands of people are now living in the open - during winter - without access to adequate shelter, food or clean water. No care has been shown for these people, many of whom are vulnerable. Thousands of children, the elderly and the ill face the prospect of disease and in some cases death from hunger, exposure and drinking unsafe water. Some of the most vulnerable are dying already.

The complete and wholesale destruction of people's homes and livelihoods – conservatively estimated to have affected at least 300,000 people so far – constitutes a grave violation of international human rights law, and a disturbing affront to human dignity. There can be no justification for the Government of Zimbabwe's action which has been carried out without prior notice, due process of the law or assurance of adequate alternative accommodation. We condemn it in the strongest terms.

The African Union (AU) and the relevant bodies of the United Nations (UN), including the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Security Council and the Secretary-General, cannot fail to act in the face of such gross and widespread human rights violations and appalling human misery. We urge the Chair of the AU and all member states to address the situation in Zimbabwe as an urgent matter at the forthcoming AU Assembly in Libya from 4 to 5 July. Similarly, the UN must act on the serious concerns raised by the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing in respect of the ongoing and massive violations of human rights in Zimbabwe.

We welcome the appointment by the UN Secretary-General of Anna Kajumulo Tibajuka, the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, as the Special Envoy for Human Settlement Issues in Zimbabwe. We strongly urge the UN to ensure there is no delay in either her visit to Zimbabwe or the publication of her findings. Furthermore, in light of the scale of the humanitarian crisis and the fact that forced evictions continue, the UN must call for an end to these violations and for humanitarian assistance to be provided to all those affected.

We urge all member states of the AU and UN to ensure that the relevant bodies of the two organizations:

- o Take immediate and effective action – consistent with their mandates – to ensure an end to the mass forced evictions and destruction of livelihoods in Zimbabwe, including by publicly condemning these violations and calling for their immediate end.
- o Call for the Government of Zimbabwe to ensure that all those who are currently homeless as a result of the mass forced evictions have immediate access to emergency relief.
- o Call for the Government of Zimbabwe to respect the right to an effective remedy for all victims including access to justice, and appropriate reparations which can involve restitution, rehabilitation, compensation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.

## **Supporting Organizations**

### **Angola**

Development Workshop, Angola  
Media Institute for Southern Africa, Angola  
SOS Habitat

### **Botswana**

Amnesty International, Botswana  
Ditshwanelo (The Botswana Centre for Human Rights)  
Media Institute for Southern Africa, Botswana

### **Burkina Faso**

Fondation Aimé Nikiema pour les Droits de l'Homme  
Mouvement Bukinabè des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples (MBDHP)  
Union Interafricaine des Droits de l'Homme

### **Cameroon**

Absolute Dispute Resolution  
Human Rights Education Centre

### **Egypt**

Egyptian Centre for Housing Rights

### **Gambia**

African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies

### **Ghana**

Centre for Democratic Development (CDD)  
Centre for Public Interest Law  
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (Africa Office)  
Media Foundation for West Africa, Ghana  
People's Dialogue for Human Settlements  
Third World Network Africa (TWN)

### **Kenya**

Amnesty International, Kenya  
Basic Rights  
Catholic Diocese of Kitale, Kenya  
Chemichemi ya Ukweli  
Coalition on Violence Against Women - Kenya (COVAW-K)  
Hakijamii Trust  
Illishie Trust  
Kenya Human Rights Commission  
Kenya National Commission on Human Rights  
Kisumu Urban Apostolate Programmes – Pandipieri, Kenya  
Kituo Cha Sheria  
Shelter Forum

Trocaire  
Umande Trust

### **Lesotho**

Media Institute for Southern Africa, Lesotho

### **Liberia**

Amnesty International, Liberia  
Centre for Democratic Empowerment (CEDE)

### **Malawi**

Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR)  
Institute for Policy Interaction  
Media Institute for Southern Africa, Malawi

### **Mauritius**

Amnesty International, Mauritius

### **Mozambique**

APFIVA, Mozambique  
Media Institute for Southern Africa, Mozambique  
Mozambican Action on Crime Combat and Social Rehabilitation of Prisoners  
National Association of Demobilised Soldiers of Mozambique

### **Namibia**

Clement Daniels Legal Practitioners  
Forum For the Future  
Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation  
Katutura Community Radio  
Legal Assistance Centre  
Media Institute for Southern Africa, Namibia  
Media Institute for Southern Africa - Regional Secretariat  
Namibia Non-Governmental Forum  
National Society for Human Rights  
The Rainbow Project  
Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa (WIMSA)

### **Nigeria**

Action Health Incorporated (AHI)  
Africa Alive  
African Development Network  
Ama Dialog Foundation  
Baobab for Women's Rights  
Borno Coalition for Democracy & Progress (BORCODEP)  
Care Organization Public Enlightenment (COPE)  
Central Educational Services (CES)  
Centre for Constitutional Governance (CCG)  
Centre for Democracy & Development (CDD)

Centre for Development Support Initiatives (CEDHPA)  
Center for Law and Social Action (CLASA)  
Centre for the Advancement of Democracy and the Rule of Law  
Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI)  
Child Help in Legal Defence of Rights to Education in Nigeria (CHILDREN)  
Civil Liberties Organisation  
Civil Resources Development & Documentation Center (CIRDDOC)  
CLEEN Foundation (formerly Center for Law Enforcement & Education)  
Community Action for Popular Participation (CAPP)  
Constitutional Rights Project (CRP)  
Development Alternatives and Resource Centre  
Development Concerns  
Development Network  
Development Options for Humanity (DOH)  
Freedom House  
Gender and Development Action (GADA)  
Gender Rights Project  
General Action Against the Violation of Human and Childrens Rights (GAAVOHCR)  
Girls Power Initiative (GPI)  
Global Alert for Defence of Youth and the Less Privileged  
Hope Worldwide  
Human Development Initiative (HDI)  
Human Rights Law Services (HURI-LAWS)  
Institute for Dispute Resolution (IDR)  
Institute for Human Settlement and Environment  
International First Aid Society (IFAS)  
International Foundation for African Children (IFAC)  
International Press Centre  
Journalists Against AIDS (JAAIDS)  
League for Human Rights  
Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP)  
Legal Resources Consortium (LRC)  
Media Concern for Women & Children (MEDIACON)  
Media Development Network (MDN)  
Movement for Cultural Awareness (MOCA)  
Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP)  
Multimedia Centre for Democracy  
NGO Guide 2000  
Nigerian Network of Non-Governmental Organizations  
Peace And Development Projects (PEDEP)  
People's Rights Organization  
Project Alert  
ProjektHope  
Save-a-Soul Foundation  
Social and Economic Rights Action Center (SERAC)  
Social Economic Rights Initiative (SERI)  
Society for Shelter, Education, Food and Agricultural Development in Africa  
West Africa Bar Association (WABA), Nigeria

West Africa Network for Peace Building (WANEP), Nigeria  
Women Advocates Research & Documentation Center (WARD C)  
Women Aid Collective (WACOL)  
Women's Optimum Development Foundation  
Youth Development Education and Leadership for Africa (YORDEL)

### **Senegal**

Amnesty International, Senegal  
Convergence Africaine pour la Démocratie et les Droits Humains (CADDHU)  
Organisation Nationale des Droits de l'Homme (ONDH)  
Rencontre Africaine pour la Defense des droits de L'homme (RADDHO)

### **Sierra Leone**

Lawyers for Legal Aid Assistance

### **South Africa**

Amnesty International, South Africa (AISA)  
Anti-Corruption Trust of Southern Africa (ACT-Southern Africa)  
Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA)  
Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR)  
Community Law Centre  
Concerned Zimbabweans Abroad, South Africa  
Crisis Zimbabwe Coalition, South Africa  
Disabled Zimbabweans Abroad, South Africa  
Free State Rural Development Association (FSRDA)  
Glynn Hunters International  
Heal Zimbabwe Trust (HZT), South Africa  
Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA)  
Land Access Movement of South Africa (LAMOSA)  
Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR), South Africa  
Masisukumeni Women's Crisis Centre  
Media Institute for Southern Africa, South Africa  
National Land Committee (NLC)  
Nkuzi Development Association  
Solidarity Peace Trust (SPT),  
South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO)  
Southern African Action Network on Small Arms  
Southern African Women's Institute of Migration Affairs (SAWIMA)  
Southern Cape Land Committee (SCLC)  
Support Centre – ACTION for Conflict Transformation  
Surplus People Project (SPP)  
TRAC Mpumalanga  
Transparency International - South Africa  
Transkei Land Service Organisation (TRALSO)  
Treatment Action Campaign  
Zimbabwe Advocacy Campaign (ZAC), South Africa  
Zimbabwe Exiles Forum (ZEF), South Africa  
Zimbabwe Human Rights Lobby Group, South Africa

Zimbabwe Liaison Office (ZLO), South Africa  
Zimbabwe Political Victims Association (ZIPOVA), South Africa  
Zimbabwe Torture Victims Project, South Africa

### **Sudan**

Sudan Organisation Against Torture (SOAT)

### **Swaziland**

Media Institute for Southern Africa, Swaziland

### **Tanzania**

Media Institute for Southern Africa, Tanzania  
Same network of NGOs/CBOs (SANGO Network)  
Zanzibar Legal Services Centre

### **Zambia**

Civil Society Trade Network of Zambia  
Legal Resources Foundation, Zambia  
Media Institute for Southern Africa, Zambia  
National Civil Society MDG Campaign  
Transparency International, Zambia  
Zambia Civic Education Association

### **Zimbabwe**

Amani Trust  
Amnesty International, Zimbabwe  
Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace  
Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA)  
Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition  
Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe  
Legal Resources Foundation, Zimbabwe  
Media Institute for Southern Africa, Zimbabwe  
Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe  
National Constitutional Assembly (NCA)  
Nonviolent Action and Strategies for Social Change  
Southern Africa Human Rights Trust (SAHRIT)  
Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA)  
Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of the Offender  
Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights  
Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET)  
Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights)  
Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights

### **International**

Alliance for Southern African Progress (ASAP)  
Amnesty International  
Association of Zimbabweans Based Abroad  
Catholic Institute for International Relations

Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions  
CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation  
Fahamu - Networks for Social Justice  
FIAN International  
Habitat International Coalition  
Housing Land Rights Network, representing  
    Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem, Palestine  
    Arcilla Research, Netherlands  
    Asia Eviction Watch, Philippines  
    Asociación de Vivienda Económica (AVE), Argentina  
    BADIL Resource Centre for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights  
    Centre for Environmental Tourism Culture, Syria  
    Centro de Capacitación Social Ciudad de Panamá  
    Centro de Investigaciones CIUDAD, Ecuador  
    Centro de Intercambio y Servicios Cono Sur (CISCSA), Argentina  
    Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristan, Peru  
    Centro Feminista de Información Acción (CEFEMINA), Costa Rica  
    Coalición Internacional para el Hábitat, Mexico  
    Comunidades Autómatas, Venezuela  
    Coordinación Red Mujer y Habitat de America Latina, Argentina  
    Defence for Children International, Palestine  
    Egyptian Centre for the Rights of the Child  
    Geography Department, University of Akron, USA  
    Habitat International Coalition, Chile  
    El Instituto para la Superación de la Miseria Urbana de Guatemala  
    Land Centre for Human Rights, Egypt  
    Middle East/North Africa Program, Housing and Land Rights Network  
    Popular Development Centre, Palestine  
    Red Mexicana de Agricultura Urbana, Mexico  
    Rooftops Canada/Arbi International, Canada  
    Servicio Latinoamericano, Asiático y Africano de Vivienda Popular, Chile  
    Shelter for the Poor, Bangladesh  
    South Asia Regional Program, Housing and Land Rights Network  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights Watch  
Inter Africa Network for Human Rights (AFRONET)  
International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI)  
International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute  
International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)  
International Crisis Group  
International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)  
Refugees International  
Review of African Political Economy (ROAPE)  
Safeguards International