



The Leaders and Members of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU),
and All Trade Unionists and Civil Society Activists in Zimbabwe

Sent by mail to Secretariate ZCTU

CC: ITUC

NI Ambassadeur Zimbabwe: Margret Verwijk

Datum

14th August 2024

Ons Kenmerk

24-089/PB/TP/ae

Betreft / Onderwerp

Solidarity letter violence against Trade Unions

Doorkiesnummer

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Email

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Dear Comrades,

On behalf of FNV I write to you today in solidarity and support, as you face an alarming increase in repression and human rights violations at the hands of the Zimbabwean authorities. The FNV stands with you in these challenging times, and we are deeply concerned by the ongoing harassment, intimidation, and unjust arrests that you and your colleagues are enduring.

Please accept our commitment to support your struggle in every possible way. We believe that your fight for justice, human dignity, and workers' rights will prevail, and we will continue to stand with you until these basic human rights are fully respected and upheld in Zimbabwe.

The arbitrary arrests and detentions of trade union leaders, the violent assault on Robson Chere, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Rural Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe, and the raids on civil society organizations are clear violations of the fundamental rights that trade unions and civil society activists everywhere are entitled to. The reports of a de facto ban on gatherings and the detention of over 70 opposition supporters since mid-June only further highlight the severity of the crackdown on freedoms of expression, assembly, and association in Zimbabwe.

As we approach the 44th Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) summit in Harare, we urge the international community, particularly the SADC, to condemn these actions and hold the Zimbabwean government accountable for its obligations under international law. The government of Zimbabwe must immediately cease this campaign of violence and repression, release all detained human rights defenders, and ensure the safety and freedom of trade union activists.



Your courage in the face of such adversity is a powerful testament to the enduring spirit of the labor movement and the fight for justice. We want you to know that you are not alone; the global trade union movement is watching, and FNV is part of this. We are committed to amplifying your voices and demanding that your rights be respected.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Petra Bolster', is positioned above the printed name.

Petra Bolster
FNV board member and international secretary