

His Excellency Robert G. Mugabe  
President  
Causeway  
Harare  
Zimbabwe

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Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2005

Dear President

I write to express my concern at the court case of leaders of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions on Wednesday October 13<sup>th</sup> at Rotten Row in Harare.

The court case follows the arrest on 8th October 2003 of leading members of the Zimbabwe Congress for Trade Unions as they took part in a peaceful demonstration in Central Harare in protest against high taxation, high cost of living, transport problems, cash shortages and violation of human and trade unions rights by the Zimbabwean Government.

I wish to protest at your Government's violation of ILO Conventions 87 and 98 which protect the right to Freedom of Assembly and Association. *The democratic rights of the trade unionists should never have been violated and they should be acquitted.*

We urge you to ensure that trade unions, as part of civil society, are allowed to operate free from Government interference, representing their members.

Yours sincerely,