

His Excellency Robert G. Mugabe
President
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Zimbabwe

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Monday 12th 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 13th 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,