

ZADHR

ZIMBABWE ASSOCIATION OF DOCTORS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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STATEMENT ON EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE AND DENIAL OF ACCESS TO
TREATMENT OF DETAINED ACTIVISTS

The Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights calls for the immediate release to a medical facility for urgent medical treatment of injured opposition and civic leaders currently held at Borrowdale, Braeside and Marlborough Police Stations. These persons have as at present been denied access to medical treatment. Those held at Borrowdale Police Station have also been denied legal access.

ZADHR has received reports that some of those detained were tortured during the course of their arrest and is concerned that the activists detained may be in grave medical condition. Information received indicates that MDC President, Morgan Tsvangirai and NCA Chairperson, Lovemore Madhuku both sustained deep lacerations on the scalp while Tsvangirai sustained a peri-orbital echymosis (swollen, bruised eye) in one eye, indicative of possibly more serious head injuries. Madhuku is also reported to have sustained a fractured ulna. It is imperative that those in need of medical attention be allowed access to a medical practitioner and for them to be assisted in getting immediate medical assessment and treatment as required.

The lives of those arrested and tortured continue to be threatened by refusal of access to medical treatment.

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