

SADC-CNGO

Southern African Development Community – Council of Non-Governmental Organisations

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The SADC Council of NGOs is alarmed by increasing and systematic acts of human rights violation in Zimbabwe. Over the past few weeks, we have witnessed an escalation and intensification of torture on leaders of the opposition parties, civil society, members of parliament and citizens in general. This situation unfolding before us in Zimbabwe call for immediate and medium term action to halt the current slide into full-scale humanitarian, social and political crisis that the SADC region and the African continent may have to regret for many years to come.

There are clearly guidelines, principles and frameworks in the SADC protocols that define and tabulate where our region should be going, how to get there, and what steps are necessary to be taken to get there. What is happening in Zimbabwe negates all that the region has worked so hard to achieve in ensuring a peaceful, democratic and sustainable region. The integration efforts that the region stands for are being reversed by the actions.

We call on all the citizens of southern Africa to unite in solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe during these difficult times.

The SADC-CNGO calls on the chairperson of SADC to consider convening the special summit to deliberate on the ever-increasing crisis in Zimbabwe to seek lasting solution, and to determine a defined and agreeable process that will lead to long-term stability.

We believe that the crisis have reached a point where Zimbabweans need to be persuaded and directly assisted to find urgent solution to the crisis the affect the entire region. As a region with the vision and dreams that we have - of a prosperous and democratic societies, we should be having a demonstrable interest in finding the solution in Zimbabwe, and act accordingly.

Our continued silence and inaction in the face of intensifying suffering and destruction in Zimbabwe cannot be of any value to our vision as a region or individual member-states.

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