

ZEF Press Statement

Tuesday 13 March 2007

Re: Arrest and Torture of Opposition Leaders and Civil Society Activists

The Zimbabwe Exiles Forum (ZEF) expresses its total revulsion and unreserved condemnation of yet another example of the Zimbabwean government's disregard of human rights and freedoms. In yet another of many instances of brutality and excessive use of force against unarmed civilians, police shot and killed an opposition Movement for Democratic Change on Sunday.

Reports also indicate that senior leaders in the opposition and civil society movement like Morgan Tsvangirai, Aurthur Mutambara, and Lovemore Madhukuwere brutally tortured in custody. This follows on the heels of the recent atrocities and torture committed against labour leaders. ZEF warns that this intolerance to dissent and violence by the state apparatus may lead to defensive mechanisms that may plunge the country into anarchy and push it onto the brink of a civil war, a situation that would be catastrophic not only for Zimbabwe, but for the whole region.

ZEF urges the international community and SADC in particular to intervene urgently before the situation explodes. ZEF also urges the opposition and civil society organizations as well as the Zimbabwean Diaspora to work together than ever before to demand a more human rights friendly and democratic Zimbabwe that respects the rule of law.

End

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