

URGENT ACTION

MEDICAL DOCTOR ABDUCTED FROM HIS HOME

Dr Peter Magombeyi, a medical doctor and Acting President of the Zimbabwe Hospital Doctors Association (ZHDA), was abducted on the night of 14 September. He had been receiving threats from suspected members of the Central Intelligence Organisation warning him to stop his involvement in a doctor's strike and, failure to do so, would result in his enforced disappearance. Following a habeas corpus application, the High Court has ordered an investigation into his disappearance. However, to date, no action has been taken and Dr Peter Magombeyi's whereabouts remain unknown.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

*His Excellency President Emmerson Mnangagwa
Munhumutapa Building
Private Bag 7700
Causeway, Harare
Zimbabwe
Email: info@opc.gov*

Your Excellency President Mnangagwa,

*I write to you to express my deep concern for the fate and whereabouts of **Dr Peter Magombeyi**, a medical doctor and Acting President of the Zimbabwe Hospital Doctors Association (ZHDA) who was abducted by three unidentified armed men on 14 September from his home in Budiro, Harare. No information about his whereabouts has been provided and I fear that he is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.*

The High Court ordered the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of State for National Security to determine the whereabouts of Dr Peter Magombeyi and to set up a team of investigators to search for him. The two Ministers were also ordered to advertise details of the missing ZHDA President.

Dr Peter Magombeyi's abduction adds to the number of other unresolved enforced disappearances in Zimbabwe. In some cases, victims of abductions have often later been found in state custody, despite denials of involvement in their enforced disappearance by the authorities. It is critical that you and your Government take concrete and meaningful steps to locate and reveal information about his fate and whereabouts.

Therefore, I urge you as Head of State to:

- ***Direct the Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of State for National Security and all state security agents to take all necessary action to establish the circumstance of the disappearance and to reveal the fate and whereabouts of Peter Magombeyi; and to comply with the High Court Order;***
- ***Ensure the release of Dr Peter Magombeyi;***
- ***Take steps to ensure thorough and effective investigations of all cases of enforced disappearances in Zimbabwe, ensure that those suspected to be responsible are brought to justice and that the victims and their families have access to justice and effective remedies which include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.***

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 30 August 2019, the Zimbabwe Hospital Doctors Association (ZHDA) served a notice to the Minister of Health and Child Care as well as the Permanent Secretary for Health that doctors across the country would not report for work starting from 3 September. They cited salary insufficiencies as well as lack of success in engaging employer. The letter was signed by Dr Peter Magombeyi, as the Acting President of ZHDA. As a result, he received threats from suspected members of the Central Intelligence Organisation including a warning that they would abduct him if he continued to organise the strike. One of the phone screenshots with a locally registered number said (loosely translated) *'do not say I don't warn you. Keep on being stubborn. You will be taken by a whirlwind. We are getting close now.'*

Zimbabwe doctors, who earn the equivalent of about US\$40 per month, are on strike to press for better wages, equipment and medication in state hospitals. The public health system has deteriorated over recent years due to economic mismanagement. Doctors have consistently raised concerns about the lack of medical supplies, lack of funds for the health sector as well as poor working conditions. Dr Peter Magombeyi is being persecuted for demanding better wages.

On 14 September Dr Peter Magombeyi was abducted from his home in Harare's Budiro suburb around 10pm in the evening by three unidentified and armed men. To date his fate and whereabouts remain unknown. Following his abduction, the human rights organisation Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights filed a habeas corpus with the High Court. The High Court ordered the Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of State for National Security to determine the whereabouts of Dr Peter Magombeyi and to set up a team of investigators to search for him. The Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of State for National Security were also ordered to advertise details of the missing ZHDA President.

Currently all doctors have downed tools and joined the protest calling for the release of Dr Peter Magombeyi.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 30 October 2019

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Dr Peter Magombeyi (He/Him)