

## RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY THE REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE OF IRELAND ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2024

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### DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

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### COI QUERY RESPONSE

#### ZIMBABWE – CITIZENS COALITION FOR CHANGE (CCC)

A report issued in July 2024 by *Amnesty International* states that: “On 16 June, police arrested and arbitrarily detained 79 Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) members...”<sup>1</sup>

*Human Rights Watch* in July 2024 points out that: “On June 16, the Zimbabwe Republic Police raided a private home in a suburb of Harare, the capital, and arrested over 70 people, most of them young, in what can be considered an attack on the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association.”<sup>2</sup>

*Human Rights Watch* in August 2024 notes that: “The current crackdown began on June 16, when police raided the home of the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) party leader, Jameson Timba, during a private gathering and arrested 78 people. Police fired tear gas and beat people with batons, resulting in multiple injuries, including one requiring surgery. The authorities charged the group with “gathering with intent to promote public violence and disorderly conduct” and held them for more than two days without bringing them before a court, in violation of Zimbabwean law. The authorities released two children and granted bail to one adult, but 75 people remain arbitrarily detained.”<sup>3</sup>

A report issued in September 2024 by the *Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum* states that: “As of 31 August 2024, a total of 128 opposition activists, prodemocracy campaigners and government critics were in pretrial detention in prisons in Harare, Mutare, Kariba, Masvingo, Gokwe and

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<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International (22 July 2024) Free Arbitrarily Detained Opposition Members

<sup>2</sup> Human Rights Watch (8 July 2024) Zimbabwe: SADC Should Respond to Intensified Crackdown on Opponents

<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Watch (9 August 2024) Zimbabwe: End Massive Crackdown on Dissent Before SADC Summit, p.1

Bulawayo. These included: 76 CCC members arrested in June and had spent more than 80 days inside prison, 14 CCC members arrested in Kariba...”<sup>4</sup>

*Agence France Presse* in September 2024 notes that: “A Zimbabwe court denied bail Monday to the jailed opposition leader and 64 supporters for a third time since their widely condemned arrest 14 weeks ago.”<sup>5</sup>

## References

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<sup>4</sup> Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (9 September 2024) *Human Rights Report 5 August – September 2024*, p.3

<sup>5</sup> Agence France Presse (23 September 2024) *Zimbabwe opposition leader denied bail 14 weeks after arrest*

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