



monitoring and documenting human rights violations, including state-sponsored beatings, torture and killings in the run-up to the 27 June elections.

Human rights defenders in Zimbabwe operate in a very restrictive environment. They face repeated arrests, torture and ill-treatment, intimidation and harassment by state security forces and other non-state actors aligned to President Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front.

Amnesty International documented several cases of enforced disappearances similar to that of Jestina Mukoko last year. Some of the victim's bodies were later found dumped. The Zimbabwean authorities have been unwilling to investigate these cases of enforced disappearances, including politically motivated killings of human rights defenders and political activists.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible:**

- urging the Zimbabwean authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Jestina Mukoko and Broderick Takawira whom Amnesty International considers to be prisoners of conscience;
- calling for the 30 detained human rights and MDC activists abducted between October and December 2008 to be either charged or released immediately and unconditionally;
- stating concern over the reported torture of Jestina Mukoko and other detainees in custody;
- calling on the Zimbabwean authorities to ensure that all those in their custody are treated according to internationally agreed standards for the treatment of persons in state custody including guaranteeing their freedom from torture and other ill-treatment;
- expressing concern that the Zimbabwean authorities are undermining the decisions of the High Court in order to facilitate the continuation of human rights violations;
- urging the Attorney General of Zimbabwe and the Commissioner General of Police to investigate allegations of unlawful arrest, unlawful detention and reported torture of all the detainees including Jestina Mukoko and Broderick Takawira.

**APPEALS TO:**

**Attorney General of Zimbabwe**

Mr. Johannes Tomana  
Office of the Attorney General  
Private Bag 7714  
Causeway  
Harare  
ZIMBABWE

**Fax: 011 263 4 777 049**

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General**

**Commissioner-General of Police**

Mr. Augustine Chihuri  
Zimbabwe Republic Police General Head Quarters  
PO Box 8807  
Causeway  
Harare  
ZIMBABWE

**Fax: 011 263 4 253 212**

**Salutation: Dear Commissioner**

**COPIES TO:**

Zimbabwe Peace Project  
PO Box BE 427  
Belvedere  
Harare  
ZIMBABWE

**Fax: 011 263 4 778311**

Ambassador Dr. Machivenyika T. Mapuranga  
Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe  
1608 New Hampshire Ave. NW  
Washington DC 20009

**Fax: 1 202 483 9326**

**Email: [info@zimbabwe-embassy.us](mailto:info@zimbabwe-embassy.us)**

**Via website: <http://www.zimbabwe-embassy.us/contact.html>**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**

**Check with the AIUSA Urgent Action office if sending appeals after 18 February 2009.**