

# URGENT ACTION

## PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST ABDUCTED

**Journalist and pro-democracy activist, Itai Dzamara, was abducted on the morning of 9 March by five men while at a barber shop in Harare's Glen View suburb. The men accused him of stealing cattle before handcuffing him and driving off with him in a white truck. His whereabouts are unknown.**

**Itai Dzamara**, journalist, pro-democracy activist and leader of the protest group Occupy Africa Unity Square, was abducted at a barber shop on the morning of 9 March in Harare's Glen View suburb. He was abducted by five men driving a white truck with concealed registration number plates. The men accused him of stealing cattle before handcuffing him and taking him away. Attempts by members of his family and human rights lawyers to establish his whereabouts have been unfruitful.

On Saturday 7 March, before his abduction, Dzamara had attended and addressed a rally by the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T) held at the Zimbabwe Grounds in Harare where he called for mass action to address the deteriorating economic conditions in Zimbabwe. Itai Dzamara, as the leader of the Occupy Africa Unity Square protest group, had previously submitted a petition to the President of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, calling on him to resign and pave way for fresh elections. He has previously been arbitrarily arrested and severely beaten by both state security agents and members of the ruling ZANU-PF party for his activism.

### Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Calling on the police to immediately investigate the abduction of Itai Dzamara and bring to justice those responsible;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that he is not subjected to torture or ill treatment if he is in state custody and to disclose his place of detention;
- Urging police to end the practice of arbitrary arrests, harassment and intimidation of activists in Zimbabwe.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 22 APRIL 2015 TO:

#### The Commissioner General

Augustine Chihuri  
Zimbabwe Republic Police  
Police General Headquarters  
7<sup>th</sup> Street and Josiah Chinamano Avenue  
P.O.Box CY 8807  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
**Fax: 011 263 (4) 253 212**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

#### Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Kembo Mohadi  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor Mukwati Building  
Corner Fourth and Livingstone Avenue  
P.O. Box CY 7703  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
**Fax: 011 263 (4) 707231**  
**Email: postmaster@moha.gov.zw**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

#### And copies to:

**The Chairperson**  
Elasto Mugwadi  
Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission  
144 Samora Machel Ave  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
**Email: chairperson@zhrc.org.zw**

#### Also send copies to:

Ambassador H.E. Dr. Machivenyika Mapuranga, Embassy of Zimbabwe  
1608 New Hampshire Ave , Washington , DC 20009  
Phone: 202-332-7100 | Fax: 202-483-9326 | E-Mail: info33@zimbabwe-embassy.us

Please let us know if you took action so that we can track our impact! **EITHER** send a short email to [uan@aiusa.org](mailto:uan@aiusa.org) with "UA 56/15" in the subject line, and include in the body of the email the number of letters and/or emails you sent, **OR** fill out this [short online form](#) (press Ctrl + click on link) to let us know how you took action. Thank you for taking action! Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY**  
**INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Occupy Africa Unity Square (OAUS) is a pro-democracy protest group formed in 2014. Africa Unity square is a park located in Harare City Centre, adjacent to Parliament and a few blocks away from the President's Office.

Journalist and pro-democracy activist Itai Dzamara was brutally attacked by anti-riot police in Harare and left unconscious on 6 November 2014. He collapsed on admission to hospital and had to be resuscitated and admitted to the intensive care unit. As the leader of the OAUS protest group, Itai Dzamara had submitted a petition to President Mugabe in October 2014 calling on him to resign. OAUS staged a sit-in protest at Harare's Africa Unity Square. Kennedy Masiye from the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, who had responded to a call by the activists, was also beaten by anti-riot police despite identifying himself as a lawyer representing his client Itai Dzamara. Police threw away Kennedy Masiye's law practicing certificate and assaulted him. As a result of the assault he suffered a broken arm and was hospitalized.

On 26 November 2014, four members of OAUS, Tichaona Danho, Charles Nyoni, Terry Manzini and Shungu Mutize, were arrested and detained after submitting a petition to the Speaker of Parliament and staging a peaceful protest in the speaker's gallery. They were severely beaten and released without charge after six hours. At the police station, the men were ordered to undress. Three officers whipped them, ordered them to beat each other, demanded to know their group's mission and implored them to stop protesting against President Mugabe. Efforts by human rights lawyers to represent them were frustrated by police officials who denied holding the men. Later they were ordered to dress up, go home and not inform anyone about their detention.

**Name:** Itai Dzamara (m)

**Issues:** Abduction, Risk of torture/ill-treatment, Enforced disappearance

**UA:** 56/15

**Issue Date:** 11 March 2015

**Country:** Zimbabwe