

URGENT ACTION

JOURNALIST RELEASED BUT CHARGES STILL PENDING

On May 7, journalist Blessed Mhlanga was granted provisional release from prison. He had been detained for 72 days after being arrested and charged with ‘transmitting data messages that incite violence or damage to property’ on February 24. Prior to his arrest, he had interviewed a war veteran and former senior member of the ruling Zanu-PF party, who criticized President Mnangagwa. The Zimbabwean authorities must drop all charges against Blessed Mhlanga as his prosecution is unjust and in contravention of Zimbabwe’s constitutional and international obligations to respect and uphold the rights to freedom of expression and press freedoms.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **Second UA 29.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Honorable Loyce Matanda-Moyo
Prosecutor General
National Prosecuting Authority of Zimbabwe
101 Kwame Nkrumah Ave
Harare Zimbabwe
Email: corporateaffairs@npa.gov.zw
Twitter/X: @NPAZim

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

CC: Embassy of Zimbabwe in the United States
Deputy Chief of Mission and Head of Chancery Mrs. Sarah Bhoroma
1608 New Hampshire Avenue, NW,
Washington DC 20009
Email: sbhoroma@zimembassydc.org

Dear Honorable Loyce Matanda-Moyo,

I welcome the news that journalist, **Blessed Mhlanga**, was provisionally released from detention on May 7. However, I am writing to express grave concern about the unjust prosecution he has been subjected to.

Blessed Mhlanga’s unjust prosecution violates his right to freedom of expression.

I therefore call on you to act immediately and drop all charges against Blessed Mhlanga. I further urge you and the authorities to uphold and ensure respect for the human rights of everyone in the country including the rights to freedom of expression and media, as enshrined in Zimbabwe’s Constitution and the country’s international human rights treaties that Zimbabwe is signatory to.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Journalists in Zimbabwe have continued to face intimidation, harassment, and arbitrary arrests for doing their work. On March 18, investigative journalist **Watson Munyaka** was killed after reportedly being thrown out of a moving car in Marondera, Mashonaland East. Watson Munyaka, who was a researcher and journalist at Dug Up, a publication known for its political reporting on corruption, was allegedly abducted and driven to Marondera where his body was found with all his belongings.

Zimbabwe's 2013 Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of expression and media freedom. Zimbabwe also has international human rights obligations to uphold human rights and press freedom and to create an enabling environment for free and independent journalism including by respecting, protecting, promoting, and fulfilling the rights to freedom of opinion and expression as guaranteed under article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to which Zimbabwe is a state party.

This is not the first time that **Blessed Mhlanga** has been targeted by the authorities in connection with his journalist work. In May 2022, he was arrested and charged with 'disorderly conduct' after he recorded the arrest of former opposition MP, Job Sikhala. The police allegedly punched him, smashed his phone and arrested him despite him notifying them that he is a journalist. He was later acquitted.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: September 18, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Blessed Mhlanga (He, Him, His)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-release-arbitrarily-detained-journalist-zimbabwe29-25/>