

# ITUC - Africa

AFRICAN  
REGIONAL ORGANISATION



ORGANISATION  
REGIONALE  
AFRICAINNE

Tel: (254-20) 27 103 10 / 34 00 46 / 27 173 08 / 27 173 24  
Fax: (254-20) 21 50 72 / 27 103 02  
e-mail: info@ituc-africa.org  
Web: www.ituc-africa.org

**Mody GUIRO**  
President  
Président

**Kwasi ADU-AMANKWAH**  
General Secretary  
Secrétaire général  
Kenya RE Towers, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Upper Hill (Off Ragati Road)  
P.O. Box 67273 - Postal Code 00200  
**NAIROBI** (Kenya)

# CSI - Afrique

His Excellency Robert Mugabe,  
President of the Republic of  
Zimbabwe,  
Causeway,  
Harare  
Zimbabwe

*December 4, 2008*

## **Subject: Protest against the arrest of more than 48 ZCTU members**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation - African Regional Organisation (ITUC-Africa), representing 16 million workers organised in 87 national trade union centres in 46 African countries, I am writing to unequivocally condemn the arrest and assault on a large number of ZCTU leaders and members including its Secretary General **Wellington Chibebe**.

The ITUC-Africa has been informed that the ZCTU has organised peaceful marches to protest against the extreme financial crisis in Zimbabwe by delivering petitions to banks. Mr. Wellington Chibebe and ZCTU President **Lovemore Matombo** managed to hand over the ZCTU petition to the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) Governor.

Soon after handing it over, Chibebe proceeded to address workers but was arrested together with nine other people including **Tonderai Nyahunzvi, Canwell Muchadya, Hillarious Ruyi, Cde Tarumbira and Joseph Chuma**.

In Harare, the police heavily assaulted ten more people including **Getrude Hambira**, General Secretary of General Agricultural and Plantation Workers' Union; **Angeline Chitambo**, President of Zimbabwe Energy Workers' Union; **Tecla Masamba** of the Communications and Allied Workers' Union of Zimbabwe; **Martha Kajama** of the National Engineering Workers' Union of Zimbabwe and **Mirriam Katumba**, Vice Chair Women's Advisory Council.

Meanwhile, **Japhet Moyo**, ZCTU Deputy Secretary General; **Ben Madzimore**, The Worker Editor; **Fungayi Kanyongo**, The Worker Intern; **Raymond Majongwe**, General Secretary of the Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe; **James Gumbi**, General Secretary of the Zimbabwe Rural District Council Workers' Union and **Osward Madziwa** of PTUZ were also arrested in Harare.

In Gweru, more than 25 people have been arrested. Amongst them are the ZCTU Central Regional chair **Charles Chikozho**, **Isaac Thebethebe**, ZCTU Central

Regional Secretary, **Moses Mhaka** and **Wilbert Muringani** (both members of PTUZ) and **Benard Sibanda**.

In Zvishavane town, six people were arrested at the Barclays Bank. The six are **Elinas Gumbo**, **Ndodana Sithole**, **Nicholas Zengeya**, **Isaac Matsikidze**, **Sarudzai Chimwanda** and **David Moyo**. They are being held at Zvishavane police station.

In Bulawayo, PTUZ Matabeleland Coordinator **Enoch Paradzai** has been picked by the Central Intelligence Operatives and is being held at Magnet House on the 4th Floor. **Kenneth Nemachena**, Zimbabwe Amalgamated Railway Workers Union - Area Organising Secretary and reportedly many others are also detained at Bulawayo Central Police Station.

**Gideon Shoko**, Zimbabwe Amalgamated Railway Workers Union - General Secretary, who is also Deputy Secretary General of the ZCTU, was also arrested in Harare. He is held in Harare Central Police Station, reportedly along many others, maybe some of those mentioned above.

In most parts of the country, workers managed to hand in petitions to the RBZ offices.

The ITUC-Africa is extremely concerned about the large number of arrests and the manhandling of some of the peaceful protestors. The brutal behaviour by police forces in Zimbabwe is unacceptable, and we call on your government to guarantee the physical integrity of all those who are being detained. Trade unions have a right to demonstrate peacefully against economic and social policies affecting their members. In a situation of dire economic hardships, food shortages and an evolving humanitarian crisis, trade unionists have no choice but to voice their protest against the economic policies that have led to this disaster.

The ITUC-Africa strongly urges your government to immediately release all those who have been arrested, including Mr. Wellington Chibebe, and to make sure that no charges are made against them.

The ITUC-Africa hopes that you will pay attention to this very serious matter.

Yours sincerely,

Kwasi Adu-Amankwah  
**General Secretary**