

*A draft UNGA resolution proposed by dissidents and human rights activists, as adopted in the Declaration of Dissidents for Universal Human Rights, at the We Have A Dream: Global Summit Against Discrimination and Persecution, United Nations, New York City, 22 September 2011. [www.ngosummit.org](http://www.ngosummit.org)*

## **Draft Resolution for the General Assembly**

### **Situation of human rights in the Republic of Zimbabwe**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments,

*Reaffirming* that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the duty to fulfill the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

1. *Condemns* the Government of Zimbabwe for widespread and systematic violations of the basic human rights of its citizens, including the right to life, liberty and security of person, the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to equal protection against discrimination, the right to an effective remedy by competent tribunals for acts violating fundamental rights, the right against arbitrary arrest, detention or exile, the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of property, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to freedom of assembly;
2. *Calls* for the establishment of an international and independent Commission of Inquiry of eminent persons to investigate violations of international human rights law in Zimbabwe by the authorities, and to establish the facts, and identify the perpetrators of such violations with a view to ensuring that those responsible for serious violations are held accountable, and to make recommendations to end abuses;
3. *Demands* that the Government of Zimbabwe guarantee the right to freedom of expression of all its citizens, and that it repeal repressive legislation including criminal defamation laws;
4. *Deplores* the ongoing intimidation of journalists by the authorities in Zimbabwe, and in particular that death threats from a senior police officer that caused freelance journalist Stanley Kwenda to flee Zimbabwe, and the arrest and prosecution of Barnabas Madzimure and Fortune Mutandiro for “publishing falsehoods prejudicial to the state” in violation of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act;

5. *Condemns* all attacks, harassment, and intimidation directed against human rights defenders and dissidents in Zimbabwe, calls upon the Government of Zimbabwe to guarantee their freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, and strongly urges the Government of Zimbabwe to investigate all instances of attacks, harassment, and intimidation directed against human rights defenders and dissidents and to prosecute those responsible;

6. *Expresses grave concern* at the involvement of the authorities in Zimbabwe in the violation of the fundamental human rights of human rights defenders and dissidents in Zimbabwe, particularly by means of arbitrary detention, intimidation, and torture, and draws attention to the detention during 2010 of at least 186 members of the groups Women of Zimbabwe Arise and Men of Zimbabwe Arise;

7. *Condemns* the Government of Zimbabwe for the 21 May 2010 police raid on the offices of the Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe organization, in which staff members Ellen Chadenama and Ignatius Mhambi were arrested;

8. *Calls upon* the Government of Zimbabwe to protect the human rights of women and girls in Zimbabwe and to advance the status of women in Zimbabwean society;

9. *Further calls upon* the Government of Zimbabwe to guarantee the right to freedom of assembly of all its citizens and strongly urges the Government of Zimbabwe to amend or abolish the Public Order and Security Act in order to limit the power of the authorities to arbitrarily ban demonstrations and to enhance police accountability, thereby helping safeguard the right of Zimbabweans to freedom of assembly;

10. *Strongly urges* the Government of Zimbabwe to launch an independent and open investigation into allegations of systematic abuses of human rights and corruption at the Marange Diamond Fields in Eastern Zimbabwe, where it has been reported that the army is overseeing a network of forced labor maintained through violence and intimidation, and channeling the proceeds into the hands of various Government officials, and further urges the Government of Zimbabwe to prosecute those responsible for any abuses of human rights and misuse of state money;

11. *Expresses grave concern* at the widespread practice of forced evictions, and notes with particular concern the forced midnight eviction on 25 August 2010, without prior notice, of approximately 250 people from an informal settlement in the Gunhill suburb of Harare, which was carried out despite the written assurances of the Mayor of Harare that the eviction would not take place and during which victims were given only ten minutes to collect their belongings and 55 people, including five children, were arrested.