



## WOMEN OF ZIMBABWE ARISE (WOZA)

P. O. Box Fm 701, Famona Bulawayo, Zimbabwe  
Email: wozazimbabwe@yahoo.com or info@wozazimbabwe.org  
Women for Women and with Women, across Race, Colour, Creed, Class or Political  
Persuasion. Empowering Women to be Courageous, Caring, Committed and in  
Communication with their Communities.

13 June 2011

### The Commissioner General JOMIC

Dear Sir/Madam,

#### **Re: Illegal Occupation of WOZA house and ongoing police harassment**

Kindly investigate this matter which we view as a total violation of the spirit and letter of the Global Political Agreement, Zimbabwe Constitution, and African Charter for Human Rights, CEDAW, and Southern African Regional Police Chief Code of Conduct (SARPCCO) UN Declaration Human Rights Defenders, International Role of Police protocols and just plain common decency.

#### **Background information**

##### **Our Mission**

Our aim is to mobilise Zimbabweans, and in particular women, to demand social justice on a non-partisan basis, educate them about their civic rights and persuade them to participate in all civic processes. We will mobilise people to the movement through civic education and non-violent action to demand leaders who will be accountable and who will deliver all aspects of social justice and a people-driven constitution.

##### **Our Objectives**

1. Engage in civic education in order to promote a broader understanding nationwide, particularly amongst women, of the concept of social justice and the responsibilities inherent in a democratic dispensation.
2. Mobilise Zimbabweans nationwide, particularly women, to participate in strategic nonviolent action, to hold existing leaders accountable and to press for social justice.
3. Participate in the national constitution-making process through civic education and mobilisation for the referendum / election.
4. Develop and exploit regional and international networks for knowledge transfer and people-to-people solidarity.
5. Capacitate leaders, particularly women, with skills necessary for community leadership.

WOZA is a registered Trust and under the UN HRDs declaration should be able to defend Human Rights without harassment and that the state is obliged to protect this right for us. We also have a right to meet and discuss under the constitution without interference from police. Additionally, we expected JOMIC as the body tasked to operationalise the Global Political Agreement to realise that there are clauses that our harassment and the invasion of our property violates. We wish to advise that there are particular Law and Order police officers who always are at the forefront of this harassment, namely George Levison Ngwenya, Lindani Mpofu, Chikango, Nkomo, Chuchu, S. G. Ndlovu, known as MaNdlo and another known as Moyo. At Western Commonage Police Station there is Mdawini. At Pumula Police station there is uniformed officer Nhlanhla Ncube. These officers were also directly responsible for torture of members during detention in March of 14 of those arrested. We ask that you investigate this matter and beg of you to ensure there is redress for this high level of harassment.

Yours faithfully  
Jennifer Williams  
Executive Director

### HISTORY OF THREATS

Date of Incident	Perpetrator	Description of Incident/ threat
Since formation in 2003	Zimbabwe Republic Police	Many arrests, torture and abductions of members of WOZA. Arrest of leaders and deny them bail on 2 occasions and detaining them at Chikurubi and Mlondolozhi.
Since the beginning of 2011	Zimbabwe Republic Police	WOZA obtains a Supreme Court ruling recognizing our unlawful arrest and that the State failed to protect citizen's rights. 34 arrests since March 1st, torture of members in custody. Members arrested were told to advise their leaders that they will detain them in Male prison. Police visit the office of lawyer Kossam Ncube and advise him that if the arrest of Williams and Mahlangu is secured, they will be denied bail. Officers GL Ngwenya, L Mpofo and Moyo based at Byo Central Law and Order.
28 Feb 2011	Zimbabwe Republic Police	Members are arrested in Entumbane and Mabutweni suburbs of Bulawayo, spend 48 hours in custody, are tortured and upon release spend 2 months reporting to the police station until removed off charges.
5 march 2011	Zimbabwe Republic Police	4 members arrested in Pumula Bulawayo and face 48 hours in custody under torture until finally released before appearing in court.
7 march 2011	Zimbabwe Republic Police	4 members arrested during peaceful protest in violation of supreme Court.
18 May 2011	Zimbabwe Republic Police	Six members arrested during graffiti painting of campaign messages. Make bail \$100 each and are still reporting.
23 May 2011	Zimbabwe Republic Police	Six (and a minor) members arrested during protest to electricity company. Make bail \$100 each and are still reporting to police every Friday and to court.
Numerous	Police officers	Visits to members' homes to conduct illegal searches and demand information regarding next WOZA protest and location of Jenni Williams.
10 May 2011	Police officers of Law and Order Bulawayo	Police officers lead by GL Ngwenya, arrive Friday 11am at the gate of 33A Clark Road Suburbs and demand entry do not exhibit any search warrant. Force and break gate open and gain entry and occupy house since that day. Lawyer Kossam Ncube and Nosimilo Chanayiwa arrived and are threatened with violence and ordered to leave. By numbers of officers coming and going they are obviously conducting illegal searches. Lawyer advised to present Williams and house owner for unclear reasoning. It should be noted that in 2004, G.L Ngwenya also raided the home of Williams' mother and illegally removed property only for it to be returned 2 years later.