

**ICFTU SHARAN BURROW**

INTERNATIONAL  
CONFEDERATION  
OF FREE  
TRADE UNIONS

PRESIDENT  
PRESIDENTE  
PRÄSIDENTIN  
PRESIDENTA

**CISL**

**GUY RYDER**

CONFÉDÉRATION  
INTERNATIONALE  
DES SYNDICATS  
LIBRES

GENERAL SECRETARY  
SECÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
GENERALSEKRETÄR  
SECRETARIO GENERAL

**IBFG**

INTERNATIONALER  
BUND FREIER  
GEWERKSCHAFTEN

Bd du Roi Albert II, 5, Bte 1  
B - 1210 Bruxelles  
Belgique

**CIOSL**

CONFEDERACIÓN  
INTERNACIONAL  
DE ORGANIZACIONES  
SINDICALES LIBRES

Tel. ++32 (0) 22 240 211  
Telefax ++32 (0) 22 015 815  
++32 (0) 22 030 756  
++32 (0) 22 240 297

E-mail : [internetpo@icftu.org](mailto:internetpo@icftu.org)  
WEB: <http://www.icftu.org>

His Excellency Mr. Robert G. Mugabe,  
President,  
Causeway,  
Harare  
Zimbabwe

Fax : + 263.4.70.38.58

TUR/JK

18 September 2006

Dear Mr. President,

**Trail of ZCTU leaders further to brutal repression of  
protest marches on 12-13 September 2006**

On 14 September the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) wrote to you to protest at the brutal repression of the protest marches by our affiliated organisation, the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU).

Information has since been released confirming the severity of the injuries caused to the top leaders of the ZCTU. We are reliably informed that ZCTU President **Lovemore Matombo** has a broken arm and has bruising and swelling all over his body. First Vice President **Lucia Matibenga** has whip marks all over her back and buttocks. Her neck is swollen and her ear drums have been damaged so much her hearing is impaired. Secretary General **Wellington Chibebe** has serious cuts to the head, three broken bones, and severe bruising and swelling all over his body. Doctors' reports for other ZCTU council members show that others have also sustained bone fractures, severe bruising and swelling, and cuts. On behalf its 155 million members in 241 affiliated organisations in 156 countries and territories, the ICFTU wishes to express its revulsion at this intolerable brutality.

All these details will of course be included in the very serious complaint we are currently preparing for submission the International Labour Organisation (ILO), to illustrate the extent to which your government holds in contempt the internationally recognised labour standards it claims to uphold, namely ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, and ILO Convention 98 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining.

The ICFTU has been informed that that the 30 ZCTU activists arrested in Harare have all been charged with public order offences and have been released on bail of 20,000 Zimbabwe dollars each. They are due to go to trial on 3 October.

The ICFTU demands that all charges against the ZCTU activists should be dropped immediately and unconditionally, and that no further legal action be brought against them in connection with the 13 September protests.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guy Ryde". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'G' and 'R'.

General Secretary

Cc: Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe in Brussels