

Minister Kazembe Kazembe
Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage
Cnr 4th Street and Selous Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe

July 20, 2020

Bring Justice to Unjustly Charged Zimbabwe Activists

Dear Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to drop the charges against **Joana Mamombe**, **Cecilia Chimbri** and **Netsai Marova** for breach of peace, breaking lockdown regulations, lying about their torture and faking their own abduction. These women were sexually violated, tortured, abducted, and hospitalized for leading a protest in May 2020 for the government's failure to provide adequate social protection during the COVID-19 lockdown.

We are deeply concerned by reports from Amnesty International about fabricated charges created to falsely imprison these women on June 10. We call on to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action and conduct a thorough, transparent, and effective investigation into the events that occurred before, during and after the enforced disappearance from state custody of all three of the abducted individuals.

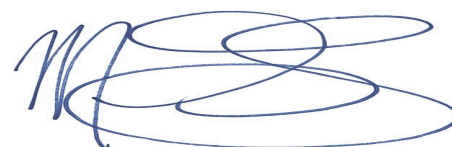
We believe that you have an obligation to immediately drop all the fabricated charges against these three women. Moreover, we believe that you must carry a thorough, independent, transparent, impartial, and effective investigation into their enforced disappearance from state custody and into all accounts of sexual assault and torture against them. We urge you to bring to justice those suspected to be responsible of the disappearance of the three women and ensure that the victims and their families have access to justice and effective remedies which include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Nathan Lane
Executive Director
TRU Students' Union



Mackenzie Francoeur
Vice President Equity
TRU Students' Union