

Innenminister  
Hon. Obert Mpofu  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
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Dear Hon. Minister,

Journalist and pro-democracy activist Itai Dzamara was taken in March 2015 by five unknown men. They accused him of stealing cattle before handcuffing him and driving off with him in a white truck. His whereabouts remain unknown.

As a leader of the pro-democracy protest group *Occupy Africa Unity Square*, Itai Dzamara submitted a petition to former President Robert Mugabe in October 2014, calling on him to resign and pave the way for fresh elections. Before his “disappearance” Itai Dzamara had already been arbitrarily arrested and brutally beaten several times.

Attempts by members of his family and his human rights lawyers to establish his whereabouts have been unfruitful.

I therefore would like to urge you to initiate an independent and thorough investigation into the abduction of Itai Dzamara and to make sure that those responsible are brought to justice in line with international fair trial standards.

Please disclose Itai Dzamara’s place of detention if he is in state custody. I would also like to ask you to ensure that he is not subjected to torture or ill-treatment, and that the police ends the practice of arbitrary arrests, harassment and intimidation of activists in Zimbabwe.

Yours sincerely

Copies:

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