

President Emmerson Mnangagwa
Office of the President
Munhumutapa Building
Corner Samora Machel Av. and Sam Nujoma Str.
Private. Bag 7700
Causeway
Harare
SIMBABWE

Your Excellency,

No significant progress has been made to determine the fate and whereabouts of journalist and pro-democracy activist, Itai Dzamara, who was taken on the morning of 9 March 2015 by five unknown men while at a barber shop in Harare's Glen View suburb. March 2022 marked the 7-year anniversary of Itai's disappearance. At Zimbabwe's 40th Universal Periodic Review, on 26 January 2022, the Minister of Justice said the investigation into Itai's disappearance was ongoing, but Itai's family are still searching for answers and information about his fate and his whereabouts.

Two days before his disappearance, Itai Dzamara had attended and addressed a rally by the opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change, held in Harare. During the rally, he called for mass action against the deteriorating economic conditions in Zimbabwe. In addition, Itai had previously been targeted by state security agents, beaten and unlawfully detained. On 2 December 2014, Itai Dzamara and two other pro-democracy activists were abducted by men while engaging in a peaceful protest in Harare. They were robbed, beaten and tortured by ZANU-PF members and security agents. They were hospitalized with severe injuries resulting from the torture.

I urge you to ensure that an independent judge led commission of inquiry is set up to comprehensively investigate the disappearance of Itai Dzamara, establish his whereabouts and bring to justice those suspected of criminal responsibility. In the meantime, if Itai is being held in state custody, please immediately disclose his place of detention and ensure that he is protected from torture or other ill treatment.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

Botschaft der Republik Simbabwe
I. E. Frau Alice Mashingaidze
Kommandantenstraße 80
10117 Berlin

Fax: 030 – 20 45 50 62
E-Mail: infor@zimembassyberlin.com