

HE Mr Gabriel Mharadze Machinga
Ambassador
Zimbabwe House
429 Strand
London WC2R 0JR

4th December 2008

Dear Ambassador,

Arrests and Assaults of Trade Unionists in Harare

On behalf of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association, I write to express our outrage over the arrests of, and assaults on a number of trade unionists after they handed over a petition to the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

As a member of the TUC's General Council I have seen the letter sent to you by Brendan Barber and can assure you that TSSA wholeheartedly supports the points made by the TUC. In addition to those named in the TUC's letter I would also like to make specific mention of Gideon Shoko (General Secretary of Zimbabwe Amalgamated Railway Workers' Union – a ZARWU) who, thankfully so it is understood, has now been released.

TSSA urges you to give this matter your immediate and urgent attention and would ask you to pass on our grave concern on this matter to your Government, and use your influence with the authorities to ensure that all those remaining in custody are released immediately and unharmed. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our support for the view that all Zimbabweans should be allowed to exercise their democratic rights without interference from the State.

Yours sincerely

Gerry Doherty
General Secretary

Link to TUC letter: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/international/tuc-15703-f0.cfm>