

# ZIMBABWE CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (ZCTU)

*All correspondence should be  
addressed to the Secretary General*

Email: info@zctu.co.zw  
Fax: (263) - 4 - 728484  
Tel: 793093/794742/794702



Ref:

Chester House  
88 Speke Avenue  
P.O. Box 3549  
HARARE

## PRESS RELEASE

### SUBJECT: STATE MUST COME CLEAN ON ITAI DZAMARA

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) is calling on the State to come clean on the whereabouts of human rights activist Itai Dzamara who was abducted in a mafia-style manner by unidentified men and bundled into a vehicle to an unknown destination.

The ZCTU is demanding adherence to humane arresting procedures in any case and a stop to this continued senseless assault on people's fundamental rights. History has taught us that such disappearances are an act of the state meant to silence dissenting voices against the glaring misrule of the current government and economic meltdown that has plunged more than 80 percent of the population in abject poverty.

These barbaric acts shy away from the basic freedoms, rights and protection as guaranteed by the national constitution. Dzamara's abduction and disappearance after criticizing President Robert Mugabe brings sad memories of previous disappearance for several months of famous human rights activists like Justina Mukoko, only for them to resurface on the brink of death in police custody.

Many Zimbabweans who have been abducted in this same manner resurfaced in bad shape after heavy torture and battering. The unlucky ones like Tonderai Ndira resurfaced dead while Rashiwe Guzha was never found. The sad development is that not even a single perpetrator of such heinous acts has been arrested.

We call upon the state to stop pretending and shedding crocodile tears and own up to its constitutional responsibilities and respect people's rights notwithstanding their scrutiny of the government and the ruling party leaders.

The ZCTU calls upon all responsible citizens and authorities to continue voicing concern over Dzamara's disappearance and demand for his safe return from the belly of state dungeons.

*Bas.*

*PP*  
**Japhet Moyo**  
**Secretary General**  
13 March 2015

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