05 April 2005

Commissioner Augustine Chihuri
The Commissioner of Police
Zimbabwe Republic Police
Police General Headquarters
HARARE

Dear Commissioner Chihuri

RE: LOVEMORE MADHUKU AND LOVEMORE MATOMBO

We request your good offices to investigate reports we have received to the effect that certain individuals are threatening Dr Lovemore Madhuku and Lovemore Matombo. They are unidentified but are believed to be from the Ministry of State Security or operatives of the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO). They are allegedly being targeted for their human rights and trade union activism.

The police and law enforcement agents in the country are legally obliged to provide protection to human rights defenders such as these individuals. As a human rights organisation of lawyers, guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 9th December 1998 and the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights Declaration on Human Rights Defenders of the 35th Session have a duty to ensure that the government of Zimbabwe through the various law enforcement agents uphold their obligation to protect Lovemore Madhuku and Lovemore Matombo and ensure that they will not be hindered in their expression by subtle, direct or overt attacks.

Further we would like to remind the government of Zimbabwe of the Fact Finding Mission Report by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights of June 2002, which emphatically highlighted the importance of recognising, protecting and promoting the space within which human rights defenders operate and it is paramount for the government of Zimbabwe to be seen to be complying with the findings of its own organ.

We would also like to remind your good offices of the recommendations of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights on the need to establish and maintain credible, effective and non-partisan law enforcement agents.

Yours faithfully

Nokuthula Moyo
Chairperson
ZIMBABWE LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Cc Minister of Home Affairs
Minister of Justice Legal and Parliamentary Affairs
Minister of State Security

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fostering a culture of human rights in Zimbabwe