

## **Zimbabwe - State hit list of activists**

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The Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) has compiled a hit-list of 50 opposition politicians, civil society leaders, lawyers and journalists targeted for victimization as part of the state's response to rising dissent.

State security minister, Didymus Mutasa is reported to be "very keen on making sure that trouble makers are brought to book". Mutasa was involved in compilation of the list and is reportedly monitoring the project daily.

"The list comprises people that are clearly bent on spearheading regime change," a source said. Jenni Williams, leader of the Women (and Men) of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA), is on the list, together with Progressive Teachers Union (PTUZ) secretary general Raymond Majongwe and Lovemore Madhuku of the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA).

Intelligence sources also revealed that MDC (Tsvangirai) spokesman, Nelson Chamisa and secretary general Tendai Biti are on the list, as is Arthur Mutambara, president of the other faction.

Human rights lawyers Arnold Tsunga and Otto Saki as well as MDC legal representative Selby Hwacha are some of the lawyers on the list. Journalists in the privately-owned press as well as some suspected to be writing for internationally run publications are also included.

When asked what exactly the CIO intended to do with people on the list, an authoritative source said, "make sure that they are kept under surveillance or even silenced".

Mugabe himself has in the last week spoken in ambiguous terms about his desire to see the voices of dissent silenced. On his birthday he said the government would ensure all those "working on behalf of (Tony) Blair were dealt with". - Itai Dzamara

Source:

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