



American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Healthcare

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November 9, 2005

Zimbi Veke Mubako  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Zimbabwe  
1608 New Hampshire Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am writing on behalf of the 1.3 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, to strongly protest the arrests yesterday of more than 200 trade unionists in Zimbabwe, including the leadership of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, during a peaceful demonstration in Harare. Your government's conduct in this matter represents a grave threat to the workers of Zimbabwe and to your government's standing in the world community.

Moreover, we have seen reports that some labor leaders have been tortured. If this is true, we most especially condemn this repugnant brutality.

The men and women arrested yesterday must be released immediately. I will be informing the US government of the AFT's continuing opposition to your government's conduct against your own citizens who were peacefully exercising universally accepted human rights.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy  
President

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