

President Mnangagwa,  
Munhumutapa Building, Office of the President  
Corner Sam Nujoma and Samora Machel Avenue  
P. Bag 7700, Causeway  
Harare  
SIMBABWE

## **Cecilia Chimbiri, Joanna Mamombe, Netsai Marova**

Your Excellency,

**Cecilia Chimbiri, Joanah Mamombe and Netsai Marova** were arrested on 13 May 2020 at a police roadblock in Harare for leading an anti-government protest over the authorities' response to the COVID-19 pandemic and widespread hunger in the country. On the same day, they were forcibly removed from police custody and taken to a place where they were subjected to torture and were sexually assaulted. They were later found abandoned about 87km from Harare, and required hospitalisation during which they were charged with meeting with others, with the intention of promoting public violence, and breach of the peace. After stating publicly that they recognised some of their attackers, the women were re-arrested on 10 June 2020 and charged with faking their ordeal. They were detained until 26 June 2020, when they were given bail. No investigation has been initiated into their arrest and credible allegations of torture and sexual assault.

Please drop all charges against Cecilia Chimbiri, Joanah Mamombe and Netsai Marova and instruct the authorities to end their harassment of them for doing no more than peacefully exercising their right to protest and speaking out against sexual violence.

Yours sincerely,