

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

Disappearance of pro-democracy activist Itai Dzamara

10 years ago

Dear Mr President,

Ten years ago, on 9th March 2015, Itai Dzamara, member of a pro-democracy protest group, was abducted from a barber shop in Harare's Glen View suburb. The men accused him of stealing cattle before handcuffing him and driving off with him in a white truck with concealed number plates. All attempts by relatives and human rights lawyers to establish his whereabouts have since been unsuccessful.

Dzamara was a leader of the Occupy Africa Unity Square, a pro-democracy protest group. Two days before his enforced disappearance, Dzamara had addressed an opposition rally where he called for mass action against Zimbabwe's deteriorating economic conditions.

"The authorities have ignored calls for information and investigation" said Tigere Chagutah, Amnesty International's Regional Director for East and Southern Africa. "Zimbabwean authorities must urgently carry out an effective investigation into what happened to Itai Dzamara and end their official silence on his case."

I ask you to immediately launch an independent, impartial and transparent investigation into the disappearance and whereabouts of Itai Dzamara and bring those allegedly responsible to justice. If he is in state custody, the authorities must immediately disclose the location of his detention and ensure that he is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated.

Yours sincerely,