President Emmerson Mnangagwa

Munukutla Building

Corner Sam Nujoma / Samora Machel

Harare

Zimbabwe

Your Excellency President Mnangagwa,

I am concerned with the arbitrary arrest and trumped up charges against Rashid Mahiya, and two Members of Parliament, Joanna Mamombe and Charlton Hwende.

In an ongoing government crackdown on human rights defenders, activists, and opposition members, all three have been charged with “subverting a constitutional government,” which attracts a sentence of more than 20 years in prison. The charges are in connection with a three-day national shutdown called for by the Zimbabwe of Congress of Trade Unions to protest a hike in fuel prices in Zimbabwe.

I call on you to ensure that charges against Rashid Mahiya, Joanna Mamombe, and Charlton Hwende are dropped immediately. I ask that you end the crackdown on human rights defenders, activists and opposition members in Zimbabwe and ensure respect for the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and that the judicial system is not misused to persecute perceived opponents of ZANU PF, the ruling party.

Yours sincerely,