



30 AUGUST 2024

STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

TODAY, WE JOIN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY IN OBSERVING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES—A DAY THAT RESONATES DEEPLY WITH THE HISTORY AND ONGOING STRUGGLES IN ZIMBABWE. ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES HAVE BEEN A BRUTAL TOOL OF REPRESSION IN OUR COUNTRY FOR DECADES.

From the colonial era to the dark days of the 1980s Gukurahundi massacres, where thousands disappeared, to recent cases like that of Itai Dzamara, who was enforcibly disappeared in 2015 and to this day remains unaccounted for.

During election campaigns and other politically sensitive periods, human rights and political activists have been subjected to enforced disappearances.

These heinous practices have left countless families in a state of perpetual anguish.

They are forced to live with unanswered questions, the whereabouts of their loved ones unknown, their pleas for justice ignored.

These disappearances are not just statistics—they represent lives interrupted, voices silenced, and dreams shattered. They are a stark reminder of the human cost of political repression and the lengths to which some will go to maintain power.

But today, we also stand in solidarity with the victims and their families. We acknowledge their pain, and we amplify their calls for truth and justice.

We at ZimRights are committed to ensuring that their stories are not forgotten.

We demand accountability from those responsible for these crimes and call on the government to bring an end to enforced disappearances.

As we mark this solemn day, we urge all Zimbabweans to reflect on the impact of these crimes and to join us in the fight for a society where no one lives in fear of being disappeared.

We must continue to press for the return of all those who remain missing and for the prosecution of those responsible for these gross violations of human rights.

Let us also remember that the fight against enforced disappearances is a global one.

As we stand with the victims in Zimbabwe, we also stand with those around the world who have been subjected to this horrific practice.

Together, we must ensure that no one is forgotten and that justice prevails.

In memory of the disappeared, and in solidarity with their families—your voices will not be silenced.