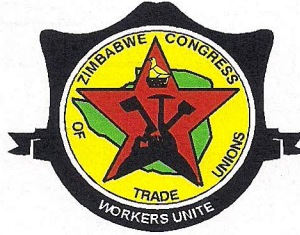


# ZIMBABWE CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (ZCTU)

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For immediate release

## PRESS RELEASE

### SUBJECT: ZCTU CONDEMNS MILITARY SHOOTING OF PROTESTERS

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) condemns the military shootings of protesters demanding transparency on the outcome of the just ended election using live ammunition witnessed yesterday which resulted in the death of 3 people with several injured in Harare CBD.

Under no circumstance should the military have been deployed to deal with protesting citizens when the police was there controlling the situation. The unfortunate deaths of unarmed civilians at the hands of a marauding army and harassment of the citizenry including journalists could mark the beginning of a military state where basic civil liberties are suppressed.

We also seriously deplore the spraying of bullets into the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the ZCTU building which endangered the lives of innocent workers who were not part of the protest. The ZCTU believes that the attack was a calculated move aimed at intimidating ZCTU. We call upon the government to ensure the safety of ZCTU employees and its properties. We are also urging workers and the general public to prioritise their safety and assess the situation before venturing into their day to day activities as the situation is still volatile.

No lives should be lost in the hands of the military especially those of unarmed civilians under whatever circumstances and we urge the military command to leave policing duties to the police who had exhibited humane and civilised protest-handling strategies before the military intervened. The use of live ammunition against unarmed civilians is the worst form of policing that should not be tolerated in a democratic state.

Such bad policing from a military acting in a partisan manner instigates violence as the public is forced take the law into their own hands seeking



justice denied, when the protecting authority turns cannibal. The 'summary executions' by the army could plunge the country into deep anarchy if not addressed and justice meted to responsible individuals. The military command elements must act rationally within their constitutional parameters and respect international policing standards when handling protests.

The ZCTU calls upon the international community to monitor the situation and apply pressure to the Zimbabwean government to ensure that ZEC announces verifiable results and implore upon political parties to desist from making inflammatory statements and work towards peace building through responsible leadership.

The government must come out clean and contain the political situation by ensuring transparency of the election outcome before it degenerates to the 2008 situation when hundreds of opposition supporters were murdered after a disputed election.

We call upon the Parliament of Zimbabwe to swiftly institute investigations into the shootings to unearth the truth behind the deployment of the military and ensure that the responsible soldiers and their command elements are brought to book. We also believe that this constitutes crimes against humanity warranting investigation by international institutions.



**Japhet Moyo**  
**SECRETARY-GENERAL**