Your Excellency

I am deeply concerned about the enforced disappearance and torture, including sexual violence, suffered by three female opposition activists of the former MDC Alliance – Joana Mamombe, Cecilia Chimbiri,and Netsai Marova , – and the charges brought against them of gathering with intent to promote public violence and breach of the peace.

Following their arrest on 13 May 2020, they were taken to Harare Central Police Station where they were asked to get into another vehicle under the pretext that they were being taken to Warren Park Police Station. Thereafter, the activists were forcibly disappeared for two days. There are credible allegations that, during this time, they were subjected to torture, including sexual assault. On 15 May, they were found abandoned in Bindura. In its press statement issued on 18 May 2020, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission noted that the three activists had been abducted, tortured and removed from protection of the law.

I am also concerned that the authorities have called heir abduction fake without launching an investigation into their enforced disappearance from police custody, and the subsequent treatment they endured, in order to bring those responsible to justice. Instead, on 26 May 2020, the authorities charged the three women, deployed prison guards and police to their hospital and forced them to wear prison clothing even though they were granted bail.

**I urge you to immediately and unconditionally drop the charges against the three activists and end the harassment against them. Furthermore, I urge you to launch an immediate, independent and effective investigation into the enforced disappearance of the activists and the sexual assault and torture they allegedly endured, and to bring those responsible to justice.**

Yours sincerely,