Hon Ziyambi Ziyambi

Minister of Justice, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs

Mgandane Dlodlo Building (New Gvt Complex)

Cnr Samora Machel Avenue & Simon Vengesai

Harare

Zimbabwe

Dear Honourable Ziyambi Ziyambi,

I am writing to express grave concern about the arbitrary detention of journalist Blessed Mhlanga on 24 February. He was charged with 'transmitting data messages that incite violence or damage to property’. Prior to his arrest, he had interviewed a war veteran and senior member of the ruling Zanu-PF party, who criticized President Mnangagwa.

Blessed Mhlanga’s arrest and continued detention violates his rights to liberty, freedom of expression and media freedom.

I therefore call on you and other authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Blessed Mhlanga, as he is detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights, and drop all the charges against him. I further urge you and other authorities to uphold and ensure respect for the human rights of everyone in the country including the right to freedom of expression and media freedom as enshrined in Zimbabwe’s Constitution and the country’s international human rights treaties such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights to which Zimbabwe is a state party.

Yours sincerely,

CC: Botschaft der Republik Simbabwe I.E. Frau Alice Mashingaidze Dannenwalder Weg 91 13439 Berlin **E-Mail:****infor@zimembassyberlin.com**