



Zimbabwe  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
NGO Forum

Activity Report

### 1 August Commemorations

#### Background

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum commemorated the August 1, 2018 Shootings which left 6 dead and over 40 injured under the theme – **We have not forgotten!** The Forum hosted and launched a documentary titled – We have not forgotten and distributed flyers which captured the Motlanthe Commission recommendations that remain unimplemented to date. Apart from screening the documentary, the Forum held an engaging panel of discussions which was focused on victims and legal reforms that usher in protection of freedom of assembly association. The checklist of recommendations unravelled that Government cannot choose other priorities such as equipping the police with rubber bullets without conversely putting in place the reforms that facilitate full enjoyment of peaceful assembly and association in Zimbabwe. The thrust of the event was to stand in solidarity with the victims and to proclaim that the Government cannot bury the truth and realities of human rights violations. The event was a good platform for reflection which allowed for memorialisation and the giving of honour to the victims.

#### In a nutshell!



The screening of the documentary was attended by 91 people of which 51 were male and 40 females. The Forum received the victims, families of the deceased, members of the diplomatic community from the U.S Embassy, French Embassy and the European Union. The Forum funding partners were represented, members of the Forum, the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, the

Zimbabwe Gender Commission, civil society organisations and media personnel from various media houses such as the SABC and the Independent were also in attendance. The event was a cocktail of different stakeholders in remembrance of the dreadful event of August 1, gathered in solidarity. One panellist, Roselyn Hanzi from Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights highlighted the need for government to prioritise legal reforms and enactment of a complaint handling mechanism to investigate violations of human rights by State security agents in line with section 210 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. Blessing Gorejena stressed the need for Government to include the input of the victims in deciding what appropriate compensation to give them. Dr. Norman Matara from Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights described the nature of violence caused by State Security Agents and mentioned that victims of the August 1, 2018 brutalities have short term and long-

term needs that need to be considered in assessment of appropriate compensation. The panellists guided by the Chairperson of the Forum, Jestina Mukoko who moderated the session were all agreed that there is need for the Government to prioritise recommendations made by the Motlanthe Commission. The victims got an opportunity to raise concern over long term medical needs and family support of the families of the deceased whose lives were taken by the overstep of State Security Agents on 1 August 2018.

### **Conclusion**

The Forum raised awareness on the situation of victims and spot-lighted the obligations of the State as recommended by the Motlanthe Commission. The event provided a good platform for presenting to the victims that they are not alone. The Forum got an opportunity to express that in coordinating the human rights pursuit for human rights for all, it has not forgotten about the August 1, 2018 atrocities.