



Zimbabwe  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
N G O F o r u m

**CONGRATULATIONS MAKOROKOTO AMPLOPE - JESTINA MUKOKO**

The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (the Forum) congratulates Jestina Mukoko for receiving the prestigious French National Order of the Legion of Honour. Jestina is a Board member with the Forum and the Director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project (*an organisation that documents human rights violations*).

According to Francois Ponge the French Ambassador to Zimbabwe, “the French National Order is bestowed on individuals with outstanding civil and military qualities whose goal is to serve their country, their values and others. It is given to men and women who fight for freedom, equality and the values that unite mankind.” Jestina, like other human rights defenders in Zimbabwe, works in a very hostile environment where rights defenders are routinely harassed, arrested and subjected to repression and violence for speaking out against rights violations. Some have been arrested, abducted and murdered for their stance against repression. Jestina has been committed and steadfast in her quest to unveil the deplorable state of human rights in Zimbabwe. She remains a resilient human rights defender who endured much suffering in the exercise of her duties. In 2008 she was abducted, held incommunicado and eventually incarcerated under false charges which were all dropped in 2009. She endured torture and harassment while in the custody of the state.

The Forum urges Jestina and others like her to continue with the struggle which will help to guide Zimbabweans into a new dispensation where the work of human rights defenders is emulated and respected by the state and all stakeholders. It is in this regard that the Forum expresses its gratitude for the work she is doing and encourages her to remain resolute in fighting for

freedom and the values that unite all Zimbabweans.

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