



International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – 26 June 2014

Commemorations held at Mutasa Business Centre, Manicaland. The commemoration, convened and organised by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum and its members Zimrights, ZPP and CSU was attended by 350 participants and had solidarity speeches from ZHLR; CCJP; TIZ; Amnesty International; Women's Coalition; ZIMTA; Mutasa Youth Forum and the United Methodist Church. In attendance were local village headmen, the local Councilor and the local Chief.

The purpose of the commemoration and an exploration of torture in Zimbabwe were made by the organiser, Reverend Maengamhuru as well as the Zimrights Regional Council Chairman Mr Nyakureba during welcome remarks and the overview. The Forum position on torture was made through a prepared statement on torture that had also been published in the Daily News of 26 June while the international statement was presented in the vernacular by Mr Fidelis Mudimu from the CSU. A theme artist through song and dance as well as primary school pupils presented messages about torture. Guest and solidarity speakers reinforced civil society and society in general's revulsion for torture and the need for the state to respect human rights law as pertaining to freedom from torture.

There was interesting public buy-in for the commemoration. Community gatekeepers such as the Councillor, Chief and local headmen made themselves available and were appreciative of the commemoration and messages disseminated.



