

ZIMBABWE **STOP THREATS TO TRADE UNIONIST**

Gertrude Hambira, secretary general of the General Agricultural and Plantation Workers Union of Zimbabwe (GAPWUZ), had to flee Zimbabwe after she was the target of persecution by state officials. Between November 2009 and February 2010, her home was attacked by unidentified armed men, her family intimidated and her offices raided.

In February 2010 Gertrude Hambira was summoned to police headquarters in Harare. There, a panel of 17 high-ranking police, army, air force and intelligence officials interrogated her about a documentary and report published by GAPWUZ which highlighted the plight of Zimbabwe farm workers.

Members of GAPWUZ have suffered continual intimidation, harassment and violence by Zimbabwe police and 'war veterans' because of their work defending the rights of farm workers. Since 2000, tens of thousands of farm workers have suffered violent attacks and many have been forcibly evicted from commercial farms, losing their homes and livelihoods in the process.



Dear Ministers,

I am writing to express concern about the harassment of trade unionist Gertrude Hambira, who has fled Zimbabwe for her own safety.

I am also concerned that members of the General Agricultural and Plantation Workers Union of Zimbabwe (GAPWUZ) have suffered intimidation, harassment and violence by members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police, as a result of their work to defend the rights of farm workers.

I urge you to:

- guarantee Gertrude Hambira's safe return to the country
- end violations of human rights and trade union rights against farm workers in Zimbabwe
- allow GAPWUZ members and other human rights defenders to carry out their work without fear of intimidation, harassment or violence.

Thank you for giving this matter your urgent attention.
Yours sincerely,

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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www.amnesty.org.uk/hambira

AIRMAIL

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HERE

Co-Ministers of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
11 Floor Mukwati Building
Private Bag 7703
Harare,
Zimbabwe



'My ambition is to see the farm workers speaking for themselves, having space in the community and being able to exercise their democratic rights... without any interference from anyone, without any violations.'
Gertrude Hambira, secretary general of GAPWUZ