



Bernard Kouchner  
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs  
French EU Presidency

Brussels, 3 November 2008  
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Dear Minister Kouchner,

**Amnesty International Report: Zimbabwe, Time for accountability**

Amnesty International would like to draw your attention to its latest report on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe. The report documents human rights violations and abuses following the presidential, parliamentary and local government elections on 29 March 2008 and the relationship between these violations and government support. People suspected to have voted for the opposition parties, human rights defenders and officials of the Movement for the Democratic Change (MDC) were targeted for beating, arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention and displacement. In this context, Zimbabwe is failing to fulfill its obligations under international human rights law to end the impunity for human rights violations.

Amnesty International is also concerned about the culture of impunity which permeates the Zimbabwe Police Force (ZRP) which is the main institution responsible for serious human rights violations in Zimbabwe. Amnesty International urges the government of Zimbabwe to take all possible measures to break the culture of impunity which has persisted since 2000. This contributed to the wave of politically motivated human rights violations after the election on 29 March 2008. We call on the Zimbabwean government, in particular to:

- Allow humanitarian organisations free passage to monitor food security and assess the urgent needs of victims of the recent wave of human rights violations throughout Zimbabwe.
- Establish an independent commission of inquiry to look into all aspects of the human rights violations in Zimbabwe since 2000, and in particular in the context of the elections in 2008.
- Undertake prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations of violations of human rights ensuring that those responsible for crimes are brought to justice, and victims receive reparation.

Amnesty International urges the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) to take these concerns into account during the discussions of the next session on 11 November 2008. We would welcome any feedback on these discussions, and are happy to provide further information if required.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nicolas Beger  
*Director*  
*Amnesty International EU Office*

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