President Emmerson Mnangagwa

Office of the President

Munhumutapa Building

Corner Samora Machel Avenue and Sam Nujoma Street

Private.Bag 7700

Causeway

Harare

SIMBABWE

Bis hier Anschrift, aber ab Zeile 4 befüllen

March 28, 2022

Itai Dzamara

Your Excellency,

No significant progress has been made to determine the fate and whereabouts of journalist and pro-democracy activist, *Itai Dzamara*, who was taken on the morning of 9 March 2015 by five unknown men while at a barber shop in Harare’s Glen View suburb. March 2022 marked the 7-year anniversary of *Itai’s* disappearance. At Zimbabwe’s 40th Universal Periodic Review, on 26 January 2022, the Minister of Justice said the investigation into *Itai's* disappearance was ongoing, but Itai’s family are still searching for answers and information about his fate and his whereabouts.

Two days before his disappearance, *Itai Dzamara* had attended and addressed a rally by the opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change, held in Harare. During the rally, he called for mass action against the deteriorating economic conditions in Zimbabwe. In addition, *Itai* had previously been targeted by state security agents, beaten and unlawfully detained. On 2 December 2014, *Itai Dzamara* and two other pro-democracy activists were abducted by men while engaging in a peaceful protest in Harare. They were robbed, beaten and tortured by ZANU-PF members and security agents. They were hospitalized with severe injuries resulting from the torture.

I urge you to ensure that an independent judge led commission of inquiry is set up to comprehensively investigate the disappearance of *Itai Dzamara*, establish his whereabouts and bring to justice those suspected of criminal responsibility. In the meantime, if *Itai* is being held in state custody, please immediately disclose his place of detention and ensure that he is protected from torture or other ill treatment.

Kind regards,