

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

CALL FOR DISCLOSURE OF WHEREABOUTS AND DUE PROCESS FOR PERSONS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY STATE SECURITY AGENTS

LUSAKA | 11TH August 2026

As Caritas Zambia, we are extremely concerned by the increasing allegations of arrests and detentions of citizens, particularly those perceived to be politically inclined, by state agents.

What is most distressing is that in many of these cases, the whereabouts of the individuals taken are not known. Families are left in anguish, uncertainty, and fear.

We are especially troubled by the recent case involving Ambassador Martha Lungu Mwitumwa and her colleague, Ms. Hannah Katontoka. To date, the family has not been informed of where they are being held. We further understand that Ambassador Lungu lives with a chronic medical condition and requires regular medication. The lack of information is causing untold distress to her family and loved ones.

Our Position

Zambia is a nation governed by the rule of law and the Constitution. Every person is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Therefore, we call upon the relevant authorities to:

- 1. Uphold due process at all times.** If a person is suspected of having committed an offence, they should be formally charged and presented before the courts without delay.
- 2. Inform families of the whereabouts of those detained.** Families have a right to know where their loved ones are and to have access to them, especially in cases of medical need.
- 3. Respect the dignity and rights of all Zambians,** regardless of political affiliation.

As we approach the General Elections of 13th August 2026, we remind all institutions that actions perceived as arbitrary or secretive only fuel unnecessary speculation, mistrust, and tension. This can undermine the peace we all desire.

We therefore appeal to our security agencies to act professionally, transparently, and in accordance with the law. Let us protect the peace, unity, and democratic values of our country.

We pray for Ambassador Martha Lungu, her family, and all families affected. We also pray for our leaders and security personnel as they carry out their duties.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” – Matthew 5:6

Issued by:



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