



Foreign, Commonwealth  
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Citizens Coalition for Change UK  
Zimbabwe Human Rights Organisation  
Restoration of Human Rights Zimbabwe

Our ref: N10#2023/07844

20<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Au,

Thank you for your petition of 19 April to the Prime Minister regarding alleged corruption and upcoming elections in Zimbabwe. I am replying as the Minister for Africa.

We are aware of the Al Jazeera documentary ('The Gold Mafia') which investigated cases of alleged smuggling and fraud in Zimbabwe and investigated the business practices of Uebert Angel, Presidential Envoy and Ambassador At Large for the country of Zimbabwe to Europe and the Americas.

Although we cannot comment further on specific cases at this stage, I would like to assure you that the UK wants to see Zimbabwe succeed and get on a path to being more peaceful, prosperous and democratic. The UK sees corruption as a significant barrier to economic reform and inclusive growth. We engage regularly with the Government of Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission, civil society, and other actors in the fight against corruption in Zimbabwe.

The UK remains committed to constructive engagement with the Government of Zimbabwe on areas of mutual interest, and with general elections (date tbc) later this year, we have also been encouraging the Government of Zimbabwe to allow space for political opposition and civil society organisations to operate. It is of course for the people of Zimbabwe alone to choose their government through democratic elections.

I would also like to assure you that the British Embassy in Harare continues to monitor the ongoing detention of Job Sikhala, including through direct observation of court hearings. As our Ambassador publicly stated on October 2, the UK is committed to the fundamental rights of peaceful assembly, association and due process enshrined in Zimbabwe's constitution.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns with the Prime Minister and the FCDO.

With ever, your mind,

Your ever,

Andrew Mitchell

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