

PETITION TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

& THE FOREIGN COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3 (CAB3):

A Constitutionally Illegal Assault on Zimbabwe's 2013 Constitution

& The Documented Pattern of Transnational Repression

Operating from UK Soil — Emanating from ZANU PF UK & Europe

Submitted: Thursday 15 May 2026 | 14:00 GMT

Parliament Street, opposite 10 Downing Street, London SW1A

NOTE ON DELIVERY — THE THEATRE OF GOVERNANCE CANCELLED BY ITSELF

The Downing Street Liaison Office (DSLO) cancelled the planned 14:00 physical petition handover on 15 May 2026, citing the political disruption surrounding the current administration. This cancellation is itself noted as evidence: a government too consumed by internal political chaos to receive a petition from the Zimbabwean diaspora community regarding a constitutional crisis and documented transnational repression operating on British soil.

We were always going to e-mail this petition after any physical handover. The physical handover was, in our own assessment, an element of theatre. The emails will proceed at 14:00 on 15 May 2026 from Parliament Street, directly opposite Downing Street. The substance remains unchanged. The record is made.

I. CAB3: WHY IT IS CONSTITUTIONALLY ILLEGAL — NOT MERELY CONTESTED

The Regime's Tactic: Manufacture a Debate. The Constitution Demands a Referendum. The Zimbabwe National Students' Union (ZINASU), whose leadership was arrested and abducted this morning — 13 May 2026 — describes their position as 'clear and unwavering.' ZHRO concurs and advances the constitutional argument further.

Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3 proposes to: extend presidential and parliamentary terms from five to seven years; replace the direct popular election of the President with election by a joint sitting of Parliament; and retrospectively extend President Mnangagwa's current term. These are not administrative amendments. They strike at the fundamental architecture of the 2013 Constitution.

The Referendum Requirement

Zimbabwe's 2013 Constitution — adopted through a popular referendum and representing the most legitimate constitutional document in Zimbabwe's history — contains specific provisions that cannot be amended by Parliament alone. Section 328 of the Constitution

distinguishes between amendments that require a simple two-thirds majority and those that require a national referendum. The provisions targeted by CAB3 fall squarely in the latter category:

- Presidential term limits (Section 91) — any extension of the presidential term, including retrospective extension, requires a referendum.
- The method of electing the President — replacing direct popular election with Parliamentary election fundamentally alters the nature of democratic accountability and requires a referendum.
- The entrenchment clauses of Chapter 12 — the independent commissions and democratic oversight mechanisms affected by CAB3 are protected provisions.

The Constitutional Position — Senator David Coltart, May 2026:

"CAB3, as currently constituted, cannot lawfully proceed without a referendum. The regime has chosen to manufacture a parliamentary debate and call it consultation. The Constitution does not permit this. The process is void."

The Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe — Confirmation from Within

The constitutional illegality of CAB3 is not advanced by the diaspora alone. On 13 May 2026 — two days before this petition's delivery — a formal constitutional challenge to CAB3 was filed before Zimbabwe's own Constitutional Court, brought by war veterans including Reuben Zulu, Godfrey Gurira, Shorayi Nyamangondo, Joseph Chinyangare, Digmores Ndiya and Joseph Chinguwa, as representatives of the people of Zimbabwe, against President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa and the Attorney General.

The applicants are represented by Professor Lovemore Masuku. The Constitutional Court has accepted the case and convened a case management meeting. Significantly, the Court has also granted applications from multiple media houses to live-stream the proceedings — a decision that reflects the national and international importance of the case, and one that excludes state broadcasters ZBC, ZimPapers and ZTN, whose absence from the live-stream authorisation is itself an instructive detail.

This development carries direct implications for the UK Government's position. The constitutional illegality of CAB3 — *the central argument of this petition* — is now the subject of active judicial examination within Zimbabwe's own legal system. The UK Government is therefore not being asked to take sides in a political dispute. It is being asked to note that Zimbabwe's own Constitutional Court is examining whether CAB3 is void — and to refrain from any diplomatic posture that treats CAB3 as a legitimate constitutional process while that examination is live. An active judicial challenge, with live-streamed proceedings, is not a circumstance in which quiet diplomatic normalisation is appropriate.

Zanu PF's Psyops and Propaganda Strategy: ZHRO, drawing on the analysis of journalist Hopewell Chin'ono (10 May 2026), documents that the regime has deployed hundreds of bot accounts, ghost accounts and the Varakashi digital militia specifically to flood the CAB3 debate with manufactured consent — creating the illusion of public support for what is, in constitutional reality, an illegal process. Over-use of bots exposes the

desperation. It does not change the constitutional position. CAB3 requires a referendum. That is the ground on which this petition stands.

II. TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION: NOW CLEARLY EVIDENT ON BRITISH SOIL

The Source: ZANU PF UK & Europe — A Formally Constituted Regime Division Operating in the United Kingdom.

ZHRO has documented, over a sustained period, that ZANU PF UK & Europe — the formally constituted British division of Zimbabwe's ruling party — operates on British soil as an extension of regime surveillance, intimidation and information warfare targeting diaspora activists. This is not a theoretical concern. It is evidenced, named and escalating.

The Documented Pattern:

- November 2021 — Dr Masimba Mavaza article following COP26 demonstration in Glasgow: naming, profiling and publicly attacking ZHRO protesters by name.
- 30 May 2025¹ — Again, Dr Masimba Mavaza article/blog cheering deportations of Zimbabweans & claiming “Some known criminals such as Felix Ndiweni and Makomborero Haruziwishe who are convicted criminals have always participated in protests against Zimbabwe’s government.” “The leaders of this demonstration includes *John Burke who has a record of abusing Zimbabwean asylum seeking women*. Zimba Wave investigative journalists have uncovered that all the leaders of these anti Zimbabwean demonstrations are *accomplished women abusers*.”
- 28 March 2026 — Following the Blackburn Walk for Freedom: a further article in identical style naming protesters attending a lawful public demonstration on British soil. Reported to the FCDO and to Yvette Cooper. Response: dismissive.
- 11 May 2026 — Leaked memo published in NewZimbabwe.com: 50+ UK-based activists named as targets for prosecution under Zimbabwe's Criminal Law Codification Act 2023 and the Patriotic Act. Timed to intimidate participants ahead of today's demonstrations.
- Varakashi digital militia — equipped with updated digital tools as documented by ZHRO (June 2025). Operating across WhatsApp, X/Twitter and Facebook targeting identified UK-based diaspora members.
- The Patriotic Act 2023 — criminalising diaspora advocacy. ZANU PF UK's Secretary for Security and Legal Affairs maintains active monitoring of ZHRO members on British soil.

ZHRO Submission to the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR), 12 May 2026:

ZHRO submitted formal evidence to the JCHR on 12 May 2026, noting that Zimbabwe — with a formally constituted party branch on British soil, a designated Secretary for Security and Legal

¹ <https://zimbanews.co.zw/home-office-to-step-up-deportations-of-zimbabweans/> By Dr Masimba Mavaza

Affairs, a digital warfare militia, and a named regime Information Minister who held a British passport and monitored ZHRO's social media — was conspicuously absent from the JCHR's own 2025 inquiry into transnational repression (HC 681). The JCHR acknowledged receipt and noted the submission; ref/link <https://zexit.org/beyond-cab/transnational-repression/diaspora-evidence-to-jchr>

The Contradiction the Home Office Must Answer:

The Home Office is simultaneously: (a) operating a policy of quiet diplomatic engagement with the Mnangagwa regime; and (b) refusing asylum claims from named Zimbabwean activists — including members of ZHRO who have appeared in leaked target lists — on the grounds that there is insufficient evidence of specific personal risk. This petition asks: what further evidence is required?

III. TODAY — 13 MAY 2026: STUDENT LEADERS ABDUCTED IN ZIMBABWE

This petition is submitted days after the documented arrest and abduction of student leadership at the highest level.

ZINASU Statement — 13 May 2026:

The Zimbabwe National Students' Union condemns the arrest of ZINASU National President Liberty Hamauswa, along with Richard, Simbarevanhu and Dylan, by police shortly after attending the court proceedings of Emmanuel Sitima and Takunda Mhuka. ZINASU describes this as a blatant attempt to intimidate, silence, and criminalise student activism and solidarity.

"Student leaders are not criminals. Their only crime is standing in defence of students and speaking out against injustice." — Munashe Dongonda, ZINASU Secretary General

The arrest of the ZINASU National President — who carries the constitutional responsibility of representing students nationally — on the same week CAB3 proceeds through Parliament, is not coincidental. It is a systematic suppression of the most organised voices of opposition to the constitutional coup. The UK Government is asked to formally note these arrests and to raise them with the Mnangagwa administration without delay.

IV. FORMAL CALLS UPON THE UK GOVERNMENT

We call upon the Prime Minister and the FCDO to:

- 1. Formally recognise CAB3 as constitutionally illegal.** Issue a public statement that the UK does not recognise as legitimate any constitutional change in Zimbabwe that has not been approved by the national referendum required under Section 328 of the 2013 Constitution.

2. **Demand the immediate release of arrested student leaders.** The arrests of ZINASU National President Liberty Hamauswa and his colleagues must be raised bilaterally with Harare and condemned publicly.
3. **Take Transnational Repression on British Soil Seriously.** The FCDO's dismissal of ZHRO's reports on the Mavaza articles, the leaked targeting list and Varakashi's operations in the UK must be reviewed. ZANU PF UK & Europe is not a diaspora community organisation — it is the formal British division of a regime conducting surveillance and intimidation of UK residents.
4. **Direct the Home Office to update Zimbabwe Country Guidance.** The current guidance fails to reflect the Patriotic Act 2023, the documented operation of ZANU PF UK on British soil, and the specific vulnerability of diaspora activists who have appeared in published target lists.
5. **Condition engagement with the Mnangagwa regime.** The current policy of quiet diplomacy — including the ongoing trade and investment engagement — must be made conditional on verifiable progress on human rights, press freedom, and the release of political prisoners.
6. **Note the visit of Minister Tino Machakaire (ZAA Gala, Birmingham, 15–16 May 2026)** — occurring simultaneously with this petition delivery — as emblematic of the contradiction between UK diplomatic hospitality and the conditions facing Zimbabweans both at home and in this diaspora.

V. THE PETITIONERS

The following individuals have formally registered as petitioners for this submission, in accordance with the requirements of the Downing Street Liaison Office (Metropolitan Police Parliamentary & Diplomatic Protection Command, Form 2103). Their personal details are held on the registered petition form dated 15 May 2026, reference: No. 10 Downing Street, 14:00.

#	Full Name	Place of Birth	UK Location	Role
Organiser	John Christopher BURKE	Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire	Angmering, W. Sussex	Lead Petitioner / Organiser — ZHRO Chairperson
1	Rumbidzai Thelma CHIDEWU	Harare, Zimbabwe	Corby, Northamptonshire	Petitioner
2	Velisiwe NDLOVU	Esigodini, Zimbabwe	Rushden, Northamptonshire	Petitioner
3	Henry MAKAMBE	Zimbabwe	Greenwich, London	Petitioner
4	Romancia CHIOMBA	Bulawayo, Zimbabwe	Middlesbrough	Petitioner
5	Nkala CANNICIOUS	Zimbabwe	West Bromwich	Petitioner
6	Blessing Tariro MAKEYI	Harare, Zimbabwe	Crewe, Cheshire East	Petitioner

Note: Full personal details including dates of birth, full addresses and contact telephone numbers for all petitioners are held on the formal DSLO Form 2103 submission dated 15 May 2026, reference: No. 10 Downing Street, 14:00. These are not reproduced in full in this document for data protection reasons.

VI. CLOSING STATEMENT

"The struggle for democracy cannot be defeated through fear, persecution, or state repression." — ZINASU, 13 May 2026

This petition is submitted at 14:00 on 15 May 2026 from Parliament Street, directly opposite the entrance to 10 Downing Street, London — the seat of the government to which it is addressed. The physical handover was cancelled by the Downing Street Liaison Office at short notice. The petition proceeds by email, as was always planned. The record is made. The struggle continues.

Submitted on behalf of the Zimbabwean Independent Diaspora:

John Burke — Chairperson, Zimbabwe Human Rights Organisation (ZHRO)

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Co-signed by: ZAPU Diaspora | CCC Diaspora | ROHR | Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WoZ) | Chief Felix Ndiweni

ZEXIT Platform: www.zexit.org | Twitter/X: @ZHRO_Zimbabwe