

June 5, 2002

Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister  
House of Commons  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister,

**RE: ARRESTS OF LAW SOCIETY OFFICIALS IN ZIMBABWE**

On behalf of the Canadian Bar Association, I write to express our deep concern about the arrest of the President and of the Secretary of the Law Society of Zimbabwe, Messrs. Sternford Moyo and Wilbert Mapombere. The two men were arrested on June 3, 2002 in Harare. We call on you to take urgent action to address these arrests and ask that you do all within your power to secure the release of Messrs. Moyo and Mapombere.

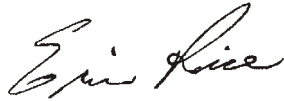
In our view, these arrests are nothing more than an attempt to silence two prominent advocates of democracy and the rule of law in Zimbabwe. The Law Society of Zimbabwe has been at the forefront of promoting judicial independence and the maintenance of the rule of law. Meanwhile, the Zimbabwean government is continuing its crackdown on democratic rights, freedom of expression and the independence of the judiciary and the Bar through a program of intimidation of the legal profession and judges, which is clearly evidenced by yesterday's arrests.

These arrests are another startling example of the rapid decline of the rule of law in Zimbabwe under President Mugabe. In recent months we have witnessed significant restrictions on the independence of the media and the disallowance of voter education programs. The recent elections were marred by a high level of politically motivated violence and intimidation.

The CBA's International Development Committee works with partners in Zimbabwe to support the rule of law and democratic governance. As Canadians and as lawyers we must do all we can to support those in the Zimbabwean legal community who seek to protect the rights of citizens, to uphold the rule of law and to hold the Government of Zimbabwe accountable for its actions which are adversely affecting democracy and constitutionalism.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter and repeat our view that the arrests of Messrs. Moyo and Mapombere demand an urgent and vigorous protestation. We at the Canadian Bar Association are prepared to support and assist the Canadian government in helping secure their release.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric Rice".

Eric Rice, Q.C.

c.c. Hon. Bill Graham, P.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Hon. Martin Cauchon, P.C., M.P., Minister of Justice  
Dianna Kempe, Q.C., President, International Bar Association  
Dr. Cyrus Das, President, Commonwealth Lawyers Association  
Sternford Moyo, President, Law Society of Zimbabwe  
Mr. Wilbert Mapombere, Law Society of Zimbabwe  
Legal Resources Foundation, Zimbabwe  
Federation of Law Societies of Canada