

## Local EU Statement on the abduction of Itai Dzamara

The European Union Delegation issues the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Zimbabwe:

This Sunday will mark five months since the abduction of human rights defender and leader of Occupy Africa Unity Square, Itai Dzamara, on 9 March.

The EU remains deeply concerned about the continued lack of progress in this case. The EU recalls the legal obligation for the authorities to provide regular and thorough progress reports on their search for Mr Dzamara, as ordered by the High Court. The EU notes that it is the responsibility of all respondents in this case, not only the police, to take the necessary measures to ascertain Mr Dzamara's whereabouts.

The EU will continue to watch progress on this case closely. The protection of Human Rights is a pillar of all our bilateral relationships.

The Embassies of Norway and Switzerland associate themselves with this statement.

In Harare, on 7 August 2015