

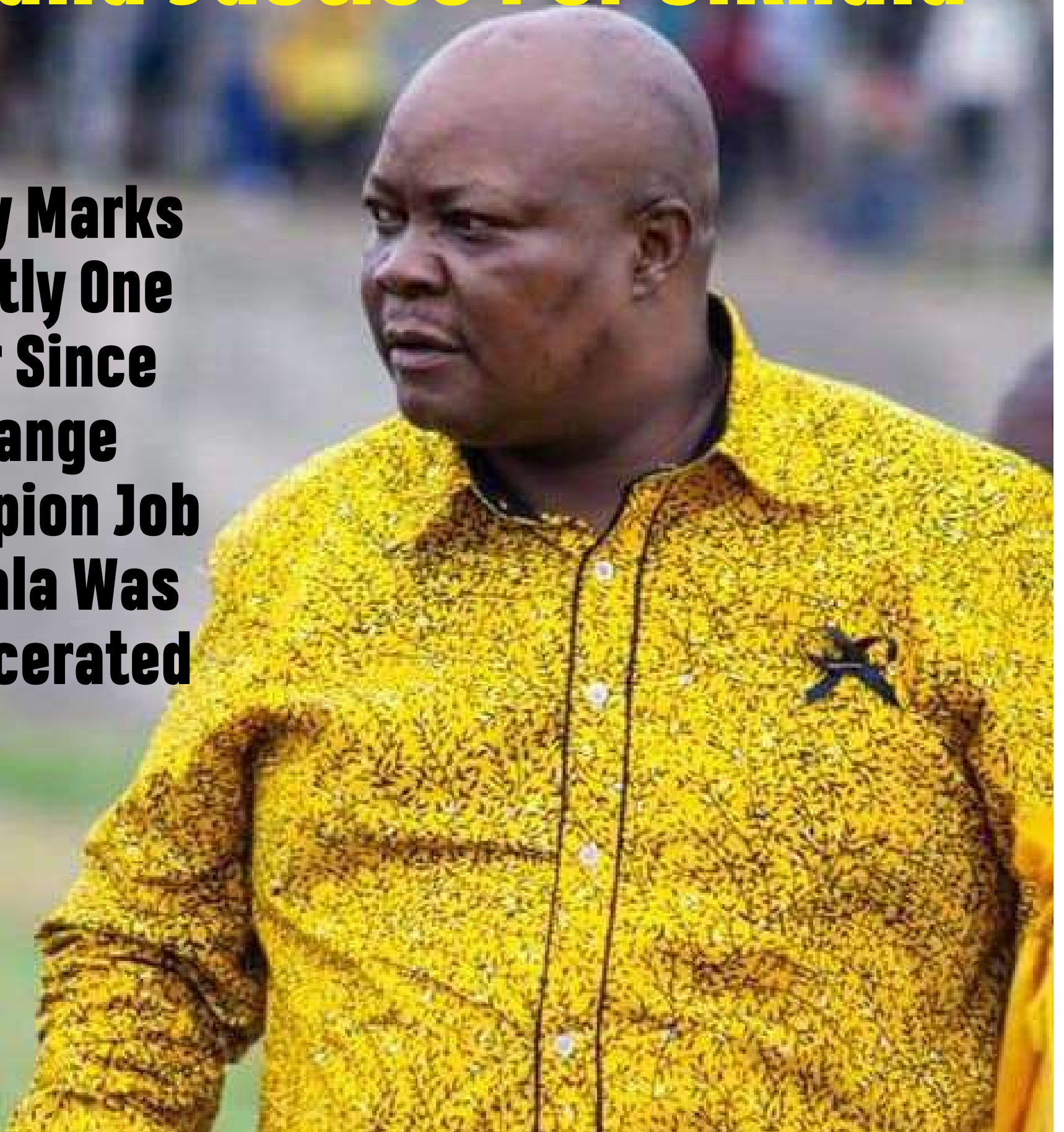


The Citizens' Daily Bulletin

June 14 2023

One Year Of Persecution: We Demand Justice For Sikhala

**Today Marks
Exactly One
Year Since
Change
Champion Job
Sikhala Was
Incarcerated**



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**The Citizens'
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#FREEJOB SIKHALA

**365 days of detention, yet
justice is still
denied – Free Job Sikhala now."**

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#STANDWITHJOBSIKHALA



**"Let's unite for change –
demand the release of
Job Sikhala."**



#JUSTICEFORJOBSIKHALA



**"365 days later and still
no fair trial for Job Sikhala –
join the fight for justice ."**

#365DaysofInjustice



**"One year of injustice –
stand with Job Sikhala
for lawful representation."**

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365 Days Of Persecution: We Demand Justice For Job Sikhala

By Citizens' Daily
Bulletin Correspondent

Job Sikhala, a prominent member of Citizens Coalition for Change, has been incarcerated for 365 days in pre-trial detention for a crime he did not commit.

His plight underscores the deep-seated abuse of human rights in Zimbabwe, as the regime in Harare continues to persecute opponents before a crucial election.

On the 14th of June 2022, Job Sikhala was arrested on fabricated charges of incitement to public violence.

He had been representing Moreblessing Ali, a CCC member who was brutally killed by a Zanu PF party member, Pius Jamba.

Moreblessing Ali was disappeared in May 2022, only for her mutilated body to be found weeks later in a well belonging to the mother of a Zanu PF chairman, Simbarashe Chisango, in the Nyatsime area.

Job Sikhala's long pre-trial detention is evidence of the abuse of human rights in Zimbabwe by Mr Mnangagwa's regime.

The regime in Harare has



continued to pile on additional trumped-up charges, including the charge of defeating the course of justice, in an effort to silence the CCC member.

Although bail is a constitutional right for Zimbabwean citizens, Job Sikhala has been denied bail more than 10 times, highlighting that he is being persecuted for his political beliefs.

His family, wife, and children have been deeply affected emotionally by his detention.

Advocate Nelson Chamisa, the CCC leader, has on numerous occasions called for his release, but the regime in Harare has refused to release him.

On many occasions, President Chamisa has been

denied access to see Job Sikhala. Even international organizations and individuals have called for his release, but the regime in Harare has turned a deaf ear to their demands.

Today marks exactly one year of unjustifiable detention. CCC and other groups have come together to demand the release of Job Sikhala, through demonstra-

tions and digital campaigns under different hashtags.

University of Zimbabwe students who have been accused of staging a #FreeJob-Sikhala demonstration are also languishing in jail.

Sikhala deserves justice, and his long pre-trial detention has spotlighted the absence of justice in Zimbabwe. Courts are being used to persecute innocent citizens who do not agree with the regime in Harare.

This is the first time a political opponent has been detained for such a long time since the days of the late Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe, signaling a slide back to the days of political persecution.

Sikhala's persecution is a stark reminder that Zimbabwe's current rulers seem to be walking down the same path that Mugabe – who was notorious for his persecution of political opponents – walked on for thirty-seven years.

The continued detention of Job Sikhala, after a year, is a clear indication of the deteriorating human rights situation in Zimbabwe. Let's continue to call for change in the country and press for the release of Job Sikhala.

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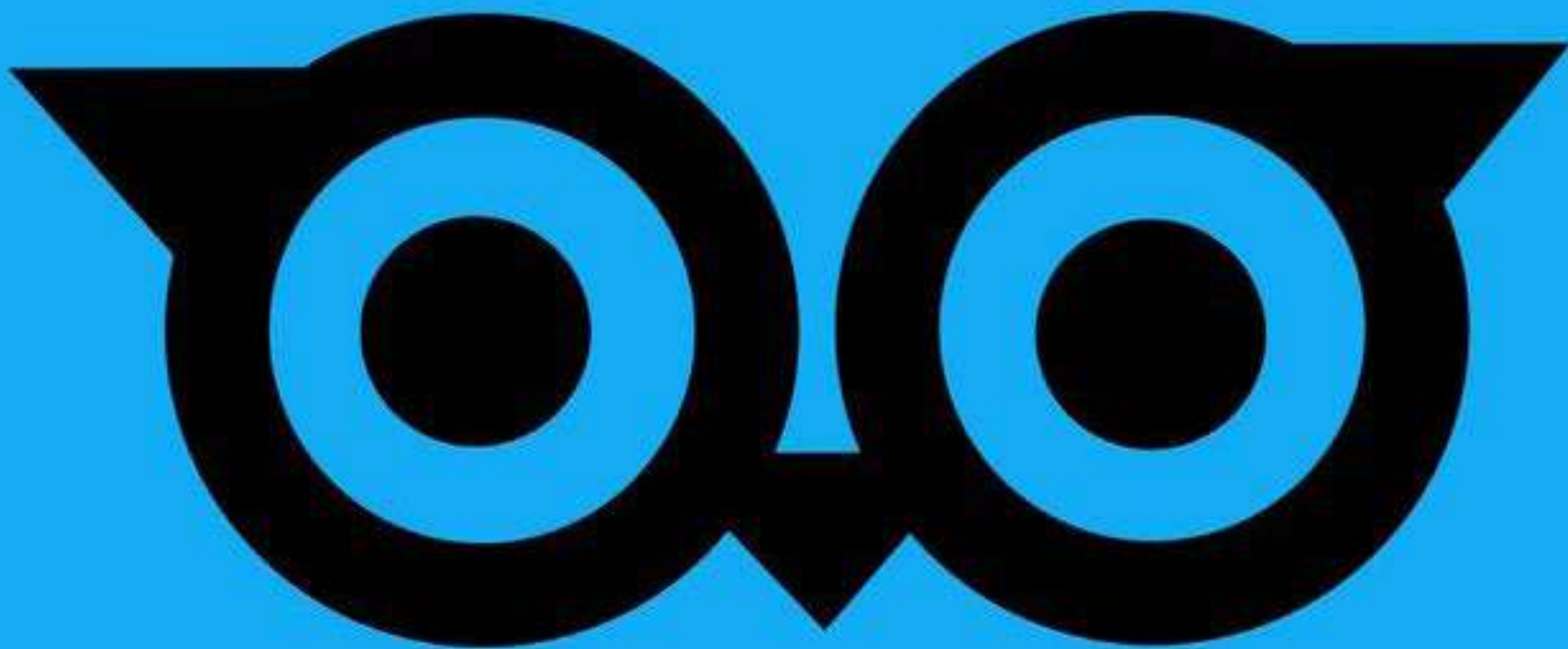
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Change Agents Launch Campaign To Adopt Polling Stations Ahead Of August 23

By Change Radio

As Zimbabwe gears up for the upcoming elections on 23 August, activist, philanthropist, and entrepreneur Freeman Chari is determined to prevent a repeat of the controversies that marred the 2018 elections.

Chari aims to address the issue of vote rigging and promote transparency by launching a worldwide initiative called "Citizens Agents."

The initiative encourages individuals to adopt polling stations in Zimbabwe and provide necessary support to the polling agents stationed there.

Chari recognized the challenges faced in previous elections, where some poll-

ing stations lacked sufficient agents to monitor and accurately report the results.

To tackle this issue, Citizens Agents seeks to secure funding from well-wishers who can donate funds to assist polling agents with essential resources such as food, stationery, and mobile data.

This support will enable the agents to carry out their duties effectively and provide real-time vote results for their respective polling stations.

In a comment, Chari explained the functioning of the Citizens Agents initiative, stating that adopting a polling station entails financing the deployment of citizen agents who commit to spending 2-3 nights at the designated station. The aim is to deploy at

least two agents per contested rural area. The cost of training, food, and transport for each agent ranges from \$80 to \$150.

Chari stressed that the process of adopting a polling station is private, ensuring the security and anonymity of donors.

Chari further elaborated that interested individuals can adopt multiple polling stations and contribute as little as \$5. Multiple donors can also contribute towards supporting a single polling station.

Apart from overseeing the voting process, the agents will assist in transmitting polling station results and V11 forms, while also recording the turnout at the polling stations.



This comprehensive approach aims to prevent any discrepancies, such as the sudden surge in votes witnessed during the final hour of the 2018 elections. "We are banking on you. Convince a friend," Chari appealed to potential supporters.

By leveraging smart, technology-based, and data-driven interventions, the initiative aims to achieve substantial impact with fewer resources.

Chari believes that while the ruling party may require 1,000 individuals for a similar effort, Citizens Agents can accomplish the same with only 10 committed individuals. Similarly, while the opposition party may require \$1 million in funding, Citizens Agents aims to achieve their objectives with just 10% of that amount.

Currently, the initiative accepts support through PayPal, and by the end of the day, they plan to add additional payment options such as Card, Link, and Cashapp.

Chari also mentioned that they are working on a model that will enable those in Zimbabwe to use Ecocash while ensuring the security and privacy of their transactions.

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Citizens Urged To Capture Images Of Political Violence

■ CCC urges citizens to document and capture images of perpetrators of political violence

By Citizens' Daily Bulletin Correspondent

Zimbabwe's biggest opposition party, Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), has urged citizens countrywide to capture and record images and videos of all perpetrators of political violence as the nation enters into election mode. CCC said that this should be done for documentation purposes.

The call came after the party had received reports of threats, intimidation, harassment, and violence carried out by Zanu PF members against their party supporters in various parts of the country.

Some of the areas that have recorded incidents of such illegal and banditry activities include Gokwe, Nyika Growth Point in Bikita, and Shurugwi, among others.

To fight this injustice, the CCC has deployed peace ambassadors to these areas while encouraging citizens to document and take photos of the perpetrators of these crimes as this can provide evidence of their actions and bring them to justice.

"We have received reports of threats and violence against our members in various



areas, including Gokwe, Nyika Growth Point in Bikita, Shurugwi, and many others, carried out by Zanu PF thugs.

As we deploy peace ambassadors to these areas, we urge citizens to stand together against these acts of banditry by documenting and taking photos of perpetrators.

This can help to provide evidence of their actions and bring them to justice," CCC said in a tweet.

The party further encouraged the citizens to report such incidents to the police and keep case numbers for future reference.

Tichaona Mandebvu, Zanu PF youth chairman in Bikita, Daniel Nhatiso, Zanu PF Bikita West candidate, and Court Zevezayi, Bikita East, Vusi Manjonjo are among the members identified and documented.

Mandebvu, Nhatiso, and Zevezayi reportedly visit-

ed a CCC member (name withheld) in Nyika Growth Point, Bikita, who is one of the nominated councilors in ward 23 and works as a carpenter. The three threatened him to stop working and vacate the place by the end of this month (June).

"How are you? I have information about our member, who is one of the nominated councillors in ward 23 and works as a carpenter at Nyika Growth Point. He wears his CCC regalia every day and is a known CCC

activist in Nyika. He was approached and threatened by the Zanu PF Youth Chair Tichaona Mandebvu, Zanu PF candidate Daniel Nhatiso, and Bikita East Court Zevezayi.

They threatened him to stop working and vacate the place by the end of this month," a source told Citizens Daily Bulletin News.

Vusi Manjonjo, a Zanu PF candidate in Gokwe Sengwa, was captured in a viral video threatening CCC members with violence and forced displacement in another incident of violence, intimidation and harassment.

"My main objective in the Gokwe Sengwa constituency is to ensure that CCC does not participate in the upcoming elections. If there are any CCC members within this area of Mutendi, I instruct you to refrain from supporting or engaging with CCC and leave this area and come back after the elections on August 24th, 2023. Is everyone clear on this matter?" said Manjonjo as he threatened the crowd.

The CCC has implored all citizens to continue documenting these instances of violence and reporting them to the authorities.

"Let us work together to ensure that justice is served, and perpetrators of violence are brought to book."

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■ Younger brother Barnabas Ndira confirmed the incident to the Citizen's Daily Bulletin

Ndira's Tombstone Stolen, Family Suspects Ritual Activity

■ **Tonderai Ndira was one of the bravest individuals who fought for democracy in Zimbabwe**

By Citizens' Daily Correspondent

The tombstone commemorating Tonderai Ndira, a departed hero of the democratic struggle, was stolen on Monday night under unclear

circumstances.

The family was notified of the devastating news on Tuesday morning. Upon arrival at the graveyard, the family was devastated to find a gaping hole where the tombstone had once stood.

It was unclear why anyone would want to steal a tombstone, but the family sus-

pected that it was for ritual purposes.

Younger brother Barnabas Ndira confirmed the incident to the Citizen's Daily Bulletin: "I received a call around 9 a.m. from Warren Hills that my brother's tombstone was stolen last night. I drove there with my mother, and sure enough, it was gone. We are shocked as a family. We

thought Tonde was resting peacefully after his brutal murder in 2008.

We suspect that the tombstone was stolen for ritual purposes. We still need to come together as a family and decide the way forward."

Tonderai Ndira was one of the bravest individuals who fought for democracy in

Zimbabwe. He was brutally killed by the regime in Harare in 2008.

The family remains devastated by the theft of his tombstone and the disrespect shown to his memory.

They hope that the police investigation will find the perpetrators responsible and bring them to justice.

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