



MEDIA RELEASE

STATEMENT FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE MDC ALLIANCE ON 1 AUGUST 2018

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC/Commission) joins the nation and other peace loving Zimbabweans in condemning, in the strongest sense, the use of live ammunition and excessive force on unarmed protesting citizens by the army on 1 August 2018. Regrettably, we understand there was unnecessary loss of lives. Whilst the Commission does not in any way support violence, hooliganism and vandalism by the protesters, we believe that there are better ways of managing protests without impacting on the citizens right to life, which must be jealously guarded by all State institutions at all times. The ZHRC urges that the army be only deployed when necessary for maintenance of law and order and in strict compliance with the relevant legal provisions and internationally accepted standards including restrictions on the use of live ammunition against protesters.

Further, we call upon political leaders and related stakeholders to exercise restraint and call upon their followers to respect peace and avoid violating the rights of others.

The Commission wishes to express its sincere condolences to the families of the deceased and equally wishes the injured a speedy recovery.

Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission

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