

The image features a black background with a white, wavy banner on the left side. The banner contains the Palau national flag, which consists of a white field with a golden bird emblem (a bird of paradise) and a red and yellow striped border. The text "#Solidarity" is written in white, sans-serif font in the upper right quadrant. In the lower right quadrant, the text "#PALU2019" is written in white, sans-serif font.

#Solidarity

#PALU2019



Monday 28th January 2019

Members of the Council
Law Society of Zimbabwe (LSZ)
5th Floor Lintas House, 46 Kwame Nkrumah
Harare, Zimbabwe

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Letter of solidarity from the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU)

The leadership, and indeed the members, of the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) have followed with shock and consternation the recent developments in Zimbabwe. We have received reports of: -

- Deployment of the Zimbabwean military to what should ideally be civilian policing issues
- Violence by some citizens, and also the excessive use of force by security services on unarmed civilians, including the use of live ammunition, and reports of attacks on citizens in their homes, including in the middle of the night
- Mass arrests and mass incarcerations
- Trial processes and purported convictions that do **not** meet the standards of fair trial as set out in the Zimbabwean Constitution, the law of the African Union (AU) and international human rights law. These have included summary or 'fast track' trials; denial of bail; denial of access to lawyers; denial of adequate time and reasonable facilities for suspects' defence, etc.
- Blocking of access to information and communications technologies in a manner that cannot be reasonably justifiable in a democratic society

We condemn in the strongest terms all violations of the law, especially by officers of government, the military and the police, all of whom have sworn oaths to abide by the Constitution of Zimbabwe and the rule of law.

We are aware that you have called for an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of members today, Monday 28th January 2019. PALU hereby conveys our solidarity with LSZ and its members; wishes you fruitful and progressive deliberations and decisions at the EGM; and assures you of our support as you implement those decisions and as you work for the just rule of law in your country, region and our continent.



We stand ready to assist with any requests that you may make of us; and will also confer with you to make suggestions on any measures we could take that could be helpful, including, although not limited to, outreach to the relevant organs, institutions and mechanisms of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU). We will also make arrangements for external observations of the trials in question.

Yours sincerely,

Emeka J. P. Obegolu, FCIArb.
President - Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU)

cc Mr. Donald Deya
Chief Executive Officer, Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU)
Arusha, Tanzania

Mr. Edward Mapara
Executive Secretary, Law Society of Zimbabwe (LSZ)
Harare, Zimbabwe

