



NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS

Te Kauae Kaimahi

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Office of the President and Cabinet
P.O. BOX 30399
Capital City, Lilongwe 3,
Malawi

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Dear Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika

The New Zealand Council of Trade Unions, a member of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) passed a resolution at its last National Affiliates Council on the 27th of May 2010 condemning the sentencing of two Malawi citizens, Tionge Chimbanga and Steven Monjeza, to 14 years' imprisonment and hard labour for convictions under Malawi law for "unnatural offences" and "indecent practices between males".

It was a great relief to hear soon after that following the intervention by the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon that the two had been released from prison. This outcome was in no small part due to the international pressure and outrage over this unjust court case. The grounds on which the two were convicted violated all human rights and international human rights conventions.

While we welcome the release of these two innocent citizens, we implore you in your role as President to lead a change to laws and proceedings in Malawi that violate the rights of people on the basis of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

The NZCTU along with human rights groups the world over urges that the Malawi Government urgently reviews its laws that deny equality and justice to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Malawian and African citizens and institute repeal and that the Malawi Government respect, protect, ensure and fulfill the rights of all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

Yours sincerely

Helen Kelly

NZCTU President

c.c Hon. Murray McCully, New Zealand Foreign Minister