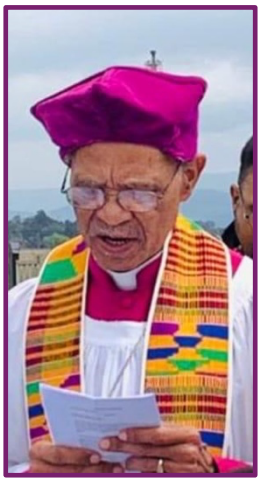
Detention of Bishop Trevor Mwamba and Co-Accused in Zambia

Written and Published by Bishop Jo Seoka (RSA**)**



The Rt Rev'd Dr. Joannes Seoka
former Anglican Bishop of Pretoria 1998 - 2015

We express our profound concern and condemnation of the continued detention and prosecution of **Bishop Trevor Mwamba and his co-accused**, who are scheduled to appear in a Zambian court today after a previous postponement reportedly linked to insufficient evidence to sustain the sabotage charges against them.

Reports from the court precinct indicate that security around the court has been intensified to extraordinary levels, with military and security personnel deployed in large numbers and media access significantly restricted. Such measures raise fundamental questions about transparency, accountability, and the authorities' commitment to upholding the principles of open justice.

The apparent exclusion of journalists from effectively covering these proceedings represents an alarming assault on press freedom and undermines the public's right to independent scrutiny of judicial processes. Open courts are a cornerstone of democracy. Restricting media access fuels legitimate public concern that authorities may be seeking to shield proceedings from scrutiny rather than demonstrate confidence in the integrity of their case.

This disturbing pattern increasingly mirrors trends witnessed elsewhere on the African continent, where political opponents have faced legal processes perceived by many as politically motivated. The use of state institutions against government critics damages public confidence in democratic governance and weakens the rule of law.

The heightened security measures and restrictions on public access have also intensified concerns regarding the welfare of the detainees. Families, supporters, and human rights advocates have expressed anxiety over reports alleging mistreatment while in detention. These concerns warrant urgent and independent investigation. Authorities have a duty to ensure the safety, dignity, and constitutional rights of all those in state custody, regardless of their political views.

The Zambian Government must demonstrate its commitment to democracy by guaranteeing fair and transparent legal proceedings, protecting freedom of the press, and ensuring that all accused persons enjoy their constitutional rights, including access to legal representation, family members, and independent medical attention where necessary.

We call upon civil society organisations, faith communities, human rights defenders, democratic institutions, and all citizens who value justice and constitutional governance to speak out against any abuse of state power. Silence in the face of injustice only encourages further violations of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Democracy is not measured by how a government treats its supporters, but by how it treats its critics. The world is watching, and the Government of Zambia must choose whether it will uphold the principles of justice, transparency, and democratic accountability or continue down a path that raises serious concerns about political persecution and the erosion of civil liberties. Let us rise for justice and condemn dictatorship.

For background information see:
https://anglicanism.org/bishop-trevor-mwamba-a-moral-voice-in-a-political-world

Extracted from and first published on Facebook page

Ditshwanelo - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights

10K followers · 82 following

DITSHWANELO is an advocacy organisation with a key role to protect and promote human rights.

Non-governmental organisation (NGO)