President of the Republic of Zambia

Mr Hakainde Hichilema

State House, Independence Avenue, Lusaka, Zambia 10101

Oldenzaal, March 2025

Dear Mr President,

By means of this letter I wish to draw your attention to the situation of Suwilanji Situmbeko.

Suwilanji Situmbeko is a doctor who has been held in unlawful detention since 19 November 2021 in connection with his partaking in a consensual sexual act with another man. On 6 December 2022, he was sentenced to 15 years with hard labour.  He has been arbitrarily detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights and sexual orientation.

Therefore, I call on you to ensure that Suwilanji Situmbeko’s conviction is overturned, and that he is immediately and unconditionally released from prison. Pending his release, he should be granted immediate access to all necessary healthcare.

Furthermore, I urgently request you to stop persecuting people for their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours faithfully,