



# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

Commission internationale de juristes - Comisión Internacional de Juristas

*" dedicated since 1952 to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights "*

## COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE – COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

For Immediate Release

5 June 2007  
Geneva

P  
R  
E  
S  
S  
E  
R  
E  
L  
E  
A  
S  
E

### **Zimbabwe: ICJ begins high-level mission to inquire into recent arrests and detention of lawyers**

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) today began a five-day high-level mission to Zimbabwe to investigate into the facts and law surrounding the recent reports of the arrest, detention and beatings of lawyers and human rights defenders.

The ICJ is represented in Zimbabwe by **Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dube** (Canada), former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and former President of the ICJ and **Mr. George Kegoro** (Kenya), Executive Director of the International Commission of Jurists, Kenya Section.

During the five-day mission, 5 to 9 June, Justice L'Heureux-Dube and Mr. Kegoro will visit Harare where they have requested meetings with senior Government officials, including the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Police Commissioner, as well as with the Chief Justice and the Judge President. The ICJ representatives will also meet with lawyers who have been detained in recent weeks and will seek to visit lawyers currently in custody.

The ICJ mission will inquire into the detention of members of the Zimbabwe legal community, the alleged denial of their right to represent their clients and allegations of the use of force by security officials during recent demonstrations by lawyers.

*For more information, please contact:  
Jumana Abo Oxa, Associate Programme Officer, at + 41 22 979 38 26.*

The ICJ is an international non-governmental organisation comprising sixty of the world's most eminent jurists and has a worldwide network of national sections and affiliated organisations

33, rue des Bains, P.O. Box 91, 1211 Geneva 8, Switzerland  
Tel: +41(0) 22 979 3800 – Fax: +41(0) 22 979 3801 – Website: <http://www.icj.org> - E-mail: [info@icj.org](mailto:info@icj.org)