

From the President

113 Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1PL
Dx 56 Lon/Chancery Ln
Tel 020 7242 1222
Fax 020 7831 0344
www.lawsociety.org.uk

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

10 December 2007



Dear Prime Minister

Following Robert Mugabe's presence at the EU/African Summit, and the publicity focused on your principled decision not to attend, I am writing as the leader of one of the largest legal professions in the world, to urge you to shine a spotlight on the terrible consequences of the almost total breakdown of the rule of law in Zimbabwe.

The Mugabe regime has systematically corrupted the Zimbabwean judiciary through land allocations and other gifts and even as President Mbeki was recently in Zimbabwe attempting a political mediation between ZANU PF and the MDC, there were disturbing reports of torture and illegal detention of opponents to the regime. We know from our legal colleagues in Zimbabwe of daily stories of harassment and intimidation that confront any lawyer who reminds the ZANU PF government of the provisions on human rights in Zimbabwe's own constitution and legislative frameworks.

The story that is reported out of Lisbon should not be that the UK-Zimbabwe relationship is locked in some post colonial dance but that the internationally accepted norms on human rights and the rule of law abuses are continually flouted in Zimbabwe. On behalf of the Law Society of England and Wales, I urge the British Government to call upon EU leaders to remind all concerned of these universal principles.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Holroyd OBE
President