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Human Rights Commission

Head Office

14th August, 2025
Press Release
For Immediate Release

ARBITRARY ARREST AND INVASION OF PRIVACY OF NINE-MONTH PREGNANT WOMAN OF GARDEN HOUSE COMPOUND

The Human Rights Commission (HRC/Commission) strongly condemns the arbitrary arrest and invasion of the right to privacy of Ms. Yvonne Simpamba of Garden House Compound in Lusaka when police officers from Leonard Cheelo Police Post in Kanyama Compound stormed into her house around 01:00hrs on 24th July, 2025.

The Commission conducted investigations immediately it received a complaint from a concerned citizen via its toll-free number 8181 and found that police officers picked up Ms. Simpamba from her home after they failed to find her husband whom they were looking for in connection with an alleged fraudulent land transaction case.

After probing the matter further, the Commission was saddened to find out that police officers stormed Ms. Simpamba's house at night and harassed her, together with her family, through issuance of threats to take her by force in a wrapper (chitenge) that she was covering herself with, if she did not comply with their commands when she requested to be given some privacy to dress up properly.

The Commission is particularly dismayed by the conduct of male police officers who opted to handle the nine-month pregnant woman in a manner that was humiliating and insensitive to her vulnerable condition instead of allowing the female officers who were part of the operation to engage the victim. The officers' conduct deviated from the established guidelines which emphasise that only female police officers should be allowed to handle female suspects to ensure respect for their rights and dignity.

The Commission intervened by engaging the Police and secured Ms. Simpamba's right to liberty and protection from arbitrary detention at 12:00 hours on the day she was taken in custody.

The Commission strongly condemns all forms of human rights violation such as arbitrary arrest and invasion of privacy.

To this end, the Commission intends to take further steps, in accordance with its constitutional and legislative mandate, towards securing redress for the violation of the victim's constitutional rights.

(Original Signed)

Simon Mulumbi (Mr.)
Human Rights Advocacy Manager