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Human Rights Commission

17th November, 2025
Press Release
For Immediate Release

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT SECRETARIAT

The Human Rights Commission strongly condemns the acts of violence that occurred at the Patriotic Front Secretariat in Lusaka on 15th November 2025. The Commission calls for thorough, prompt and impartial investigations into the incident.

The Commission urges the Zambia Police Service to investigate this matter diligently and bring the culprits to book without fear or favour. This will send a strong and unequivocal message that lawlessness and acts of violence will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Violence in public spaces undermines the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights to peaceful assembly, liberty and personal security. Such incidents tend to lead to lapses in effective law enforcement and need to be urgently addressed.

The Commission therefore calls for proactive and preventive law enforcement measures by the Zambia Police Service, to deter and curtail acts of violence, and thereby safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the right to peaceful assembly. Further, the Zambia Police Service is urged to urgently work towards a more facilitative environment for political parties to exercise their rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia bears the primary responsibility to maintain law and order, which is essential in guaranteeing a conducive governance environment in which all individuals can freely enjoy all their fundamental rights and freedoms without hindrance.

As a National Human Rights Institution, the Commission is deeply concerned that, if decisive steps are not immediately taken to prevent and punish these emerging incidents of political violence, the situation may deteriorate in the lead-up to the 2026 General Elections.

Lastly, the Commission calls upon all political parties, their members and supporters to refrain from violence and to resolve their differences through peaceful and constructive dialogue.

(Original Signed)
Dr. Pamela Towela Sambo
CHAIRPERSON