

### **3 Prison Warders dismissed over SABC documentary exposing horror of Zimbabwe prisons**

The three Zimbabwean prison warders who were arrested following the screening of a shock documentary exposing the horror of Zimbabwe's prisons by South African broadcaster SABC have now lost their jobs. The three warders were charged with contravening sections of the Official Secrets Act but subsequently acquitted of these charges. All three have now been dismissed over the allegations, two of the warders have since had unrelated charges levelled against them and are out on bail facing court hearings. The SABC team reportedly provided sympathetic wardens with secret cameras to film conditions in Khami, Beitbridge and Harare Remand prisons. The documentary showed footage of emaciated prisoners dressed in rags and dying of malnutrition and disease in filthy conditions, without access to food, medication or basic sanitation. A report by Zimbabwe's Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender, an NGO advocating the rights of prisoners, said at least 20 inmates were dying daily in the country's jails. The arrests were made shortly after Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa dismissed the documentary as a fraud, stating that it had been filmed in countries other than Zimbabwe.

There are now fears that the appalling conditions shown in the documentary will worsen as the World Health Organisation has warned of a fast-spreading cholera outbreak in another Zimbabwe prison. This outbreak has sparked concerns that the epidemic, which is now slowing in the rest of the country, will spread through other prisons across the country as a result of the filthy conditions and lack of sanitation.