

Zimbabwe activists released following international pressure

Human Rights activist Jestina Mukoko was again released from custody with 14 others after a judge was forced to reverse her decision to send them back to prison earlier this week. The activists, who had been charged with terrorism and released from custody in March, had their bail revoked after a formal indictment was filed provoking heavy criticism from human rights organisations. The charges facing the activists, stemming from an alleged plot to overthrow President Robert Mugabe, have been widely denounced as baseless. The decision was reversed under pressure from the MDC and rumoured pressure from the South African government. Three political activists remain in custody, the magistrate said that their cases were more serious because they had allegedly been found with explosives. A bail hearing before a higher court was scheduled for the three on Thursday 7th May but subsequently postponed due to a request from the state for more time to prepare a response.