President Obama presents Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) with Global Human Rights Award

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WOZA have won the 2009 Robert. F. Kennedy Human Rights Award. Laureate Magodonga Mahlangu and founder of WOZA Jenni Williams received the award from US President Barack Obama in the White House. WOZA is a grassroots movement of over 75,000 Zimbabweans working throughout the country empowering women to mobilize and take non-violent action against injustice. Since its founding in December 2002, WOZA has staged hundreds of non-violent marches in support of democratic reform and women's empowerment.

The Government of Zimbabwe has jailed Ms. Mahlangu and thousands of WOZA supporters many times for their participation. "*By her example, Magodonga has shown the women of WOZA and the people of Zimbabwe that they can undermine their oppressors' power with their own power, that they can sap a dictator's strength with their own*," Obama said.

In a WOZA press statement, Ms. Mahlangu explained: "*I feel both great excitement for the recognition of my work with WOZA and sadness because although my work has gained recognition internationally, in my own country I have been labelled an enemy of the state,*"… "*Now I know I am not alone, the world is watching and one day Zimbabwe shall be a normal society - with the determination of the members of WOZA, anything is possible.*"