



Southern African Media and  
Gender Institute

17<sup>th</sup> April 2008,

The Chairperson  
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Dear Sir / Madam,

**RE: PETITION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
(IPU) TO URGENTLY ACT ON THE POST ELECTION CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE**

We (the Southern African Media and Gender Institute) respectfully draw the attention of the IPU members gathered in Cape Town, South Africa, to the crisis in Zimbabwe. We urge the members to swiftly intervene in the post-election crisis which we believe violates both the human and democratic rights of the Zimbabwean people.

This week, (on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2008) the Zimbabwean High Court ruled in favour of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission allowing them to further delay the announcement of the outcome of the Presidential polls. This delay sanctioned by what should be an independent judiciary, is further adding fuel to the fire that will soon lead to further violence and chaos should this go unchecked.

The past five years have seen the progressive collapse of the Zimbabwean economy resulting in hardships and suffering to many. The worst affected being the poor, especially women and children, the majority of them living in rural areas. The current impasse, relating to election results, further worsens an already bad situation. Recent media reports showed that anxiety created by the delay in the verification process and the release of the results has sparked politically motivated violence in parts of rural Zimbabwe.

Although there are many crises in Zimbabwe, our immediate concern relates to the release of the Presidential Election results. Therefore, we urge you to strongly put pressure on the High and Supreme Courts of Zimbabwe to uphold the Constitution and to reverse their judgement which allowed the ZEC the liberty to withhold the results.

Signed,

Judith Smith- Vialva  
**Director: SAMGI**

Selina L. Mudavanhu  
**Co-ordinator:  
Women's Media Watch**

Rianne Spit  
**Activist  
Women's Media  
Watch**