



**World Federation of Public Health Associations**

**Fédération mondiale des associations de santé publique  
Federación Mundial de Asociaciones de Salud Pública**

**World Federation of Public Health Associations Condemns  
Human Rights Abuses in Zimbabwe**

Statement by Dr. S.M. Asib Nasim, President, and  
Dr. Barbara Hatcher, Interim Secretary General, WFPHA

*Washington, D.C., USA, April 27, 2007* – “The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) today condemns the recent Zimbabwe assaults and torture of peaceful demonstrators and the denial of medical care to persons suffering injuries as a result.

“WFPHA, having expressed opposition to violations of human rights in the past, affirms that access to health care is a fundamental human right and a precondition to social and economic development, as stated in the WFPHA’s 2006 Rio Declaration. The denial of protection from violence and torture and access to health care, as highlighted in reports coming from Zimbabwe, is considered a very serious offense.

“We call for the protection and promotion of human rights for all citizens of Zimbabwe, regardless of their political affiliation. Zimbabwean officials must not deny its citizens full access to medical treatment, as international reports indicate. WFPHA urges the government of Zimbabwe to honor its commitment to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights by guaranteeing access to health care and condemning the use of torture in any form.”

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