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## PRESS RELEASE

### ZIMBABWE'S HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST DOCTORS

The NPPF has taken note of the atrocious human rights abuses being committed by the Zimbabwean government against doctors practicing in Zimbabwe. Earlier this month it was reported that the Zimbabwean government kidnapped and tortured Dr Peter Magombeyi for five days.

There can be little doubt that these heinous acts were committed by the Zimbabwean government as is now also evidenced by the deployment of dozens of state police and anti-riot officers to obstruct Dr Peter Magombeyi from travelling to South Africa to obtain much needed medical treatment. In doing so Zimbabwe wilful ignores the Rule of Law as these acts follow a Zimbabwean court order directing the Zimbabwean police to cease obstructing Dr Peter Magombeyi from obtaining such treatment. It would be rather ironic if Zimbabwe's former president, Mr Mugabe was afforded first class medical treatment in Singapore while Zimbabwe's own doctors are prevented from travelling to South Africa for treatment for injuries suffered at the hands of the Zimbabwean state.

The NPPF calls on the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob, to condemn in the strongest possible terms the Zimbabwean government's total disregard for basic human rights. It is deeply concerning that the Namibian president has not issued a statement in light of these ongoing atrocities. It is even more concerning that the only solidarity being shown is to the Zimbabwean government, whilst many of its ordinary citizens are actively being persecuted daily and dissenting voices continue to be violently suppressed.

The NPPF calls on all Namibian healthcare workers to support our colleagues in Zimbabwe during these difficult times.

#### Editor's Note:

The Namibia Private Practitioners' Forum (NPPF) is a non-profit company. Its members are private sector healthcare providers from all healthcare disciplines.

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