



THE CONFEDERATION OF CANADIAN UNIONS LA CONFÉDÉRATION DES SYNDICATS CANADIENS

Dear President Mutharika,

The use of live ammunition, tear gas and beatings by government forces to repress the recent civil protests organised within the constitutional bounds of your country, leaving 19 dead and scores more injured, is a violation of human rights. I call on you to launch an independent inquiry into the deaths and acts of violence. I am also concerned for the safety of many local civil society leaders, including labour leaders, who have received threats following the events of the 20th and 21st July, and ask you to publicly address and condemn the threats to civil society activists including trade unionists.

I urge you, Mr President, to cease attempts to publicly brand those that engage in peaceful protest and address the legitimate grievances of civil society through genuine dialogue. I also ask that you uphold the right to peaceful protest and freedom of expression as well as ensure that violent repression of protests does not occur again in the future.

Sincerely,

John Hanrahan
Vice President, Confederation of Canadian Unions