



*Health for All Now!*

## **People's Health Movement East & Southern Africa**

### **PHM statement concerning Dr Peter Magombeyi's return**

The People's Health Movement (PHM) is pleased to hear the good news of Dr Peter Magombeyi's safe return. We applaud the Zimbabwean doctors and all the other activists who took a stand till his safe return.

In solidarity with activists' efforts, PHM expresses deep concern over the safety of leaders and members of progressive and dedicated organizations who are serving the health needs of the people and fighting for the realisation of the right to health as enshrined in the Zimbabwe constitution. Heinous acts of abduction are proof of the shrinking space for all citizens, especially progressive and activists organizations. Abductions of outspoken, law-abiding citizens are a violation of Zimbabwe's national and international laws and human rights covenants<sup>1</sup>. Organizations and advocates who work and fight for the people's right to health should not be subjected to such intimidation simply for doing what the government fails to do and we call for urgent attention by the Zimbabwean government to fix its basic public health services.

The Zimbabwean government should channel its efforts to fix the ailing health system, characterised by shrinking salaries, poor working conditions, shortage of medicines, equipment and sundries rather than attempting to silence those who raise their voices. Health is a fundamental human right and all Zimbabweans must enjoy this right, as Dr. Magombeyi has advocated.

PHM is a global network bringing together grassroots health activists, policy maker's civil society organizations, practitioners, and academic institutions from around the world, particularly from low and middle income countries (L&MIC) [www.phmovement.org](http://www.phmovement.org) .

**On behalf of the People's Health Movement of East and Southern Africa.**

**22 September 2019**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>