Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
I. E. Frau Anne Wagner-Mitchell
P.O. Box 50120
Lusaka
**SAMBIA**

Dear Ambassador

I am writing to you today to bring to your attention the case of Dr. Suwilanji Situmbeko and to ask for your support.

On 2021-Sept-22, Dr. Suwilanji Situmbeko (aka Stukie) was witnessed by a man having consensual sex with another man. The witness took this as an opportunity to blackmail Suwilanji Situmbeko. When he refused to pay, the man reported him to the police. Suwilanji Situmbeko was charged with "unnatural offense" (section 155 of the Zambian Penal Code) and "gross immorality" (section 158). The charge was later changed to "same-sex act".

In May 2022, Suwilanji Situmbeko was found guilty of "same-sex act" and sentenced to 15 years in prison with hard labor on 6 December 2022.

In Zambia, LGBTI+ people are facing increasing hostility. Religious leaders and politicians have positioned themselves against LGBTI+ people, making their situation even worse. In July 2024, Isaac Mwanza and the Zambian Civil Liberties Union (ZCLU) petitioned the Constitutional Court to have Section 155(a)(c) of the Zambian Penal Code declared unconstitutional. They argued that the law is vague and discriminatory and violates the constitutional principles of legal certainty, non-discrimination and human dignity. In their view, the law discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, interferes with privacy and subjects people to inhuman and degrading treatment through forced forensic examinations.

Hereby, I ask you to intercede with the Zambian government on behalf of Dr. Suwilanji Situmbeko to ensure that the conviction against him is overturned and that the Zambian authorities release him from detention.

Thank you for your support and best regards