

## **INTERNATIONAL LETTER OF PROTEST TO:**

The South African Human Rights Commission  
SAHRC Chairperson ADV Lawrence Mushwana [lmushwana@sahrc.org.za](mailto:lmushwana@sahrc.org.za)  
All SAHRC Commissioners [allcommissioners@sahrc.org.za](mailto:allcommissioners@sahrc.org.za)  
cc. [paganrightsalliance@ananzi.co.za](mailto:paganrightsalliance@ananzi.co.za)

### **30 days of advocacy against witch-hunts - 29 March to 27 April (2011)**

'South African Human Rights Commission' Chairperson ADV Lawrence Mushwana and all SAHRC Commissioners.

We the undersigned, wish to express our strongest condemnation of ongoing human rights abuses committed in South Africa, and on the African continent, as a result of accusations of witchcraft.

The Human Rights Commission's failure to publicly condemn accusations of witchcraft and to prevent violent witch-hunts in South Africa, is ultimately injurious to the dignity of all South Africans, including those who have suffered, or who will suffer such abuses.

The SAHRC's failure to recognize and act against witch-hunts, as human rights abuses of the most grievous kind, is tantamount to silent consent of ongoing witchcraft accusations against women, men and children - citizens of South Africa equally entitled to dignity, security and safety.

We demand that the SAHRC act immediately to address witch-hunts in South Africa and to set a positive and humane example for other human rights commissions throughout the African continent to follow, or face international condemnation for its failure to act.

We appeal to all African commissions for human rights to encourage all African governments to:

- halt the persecution of suspected or accused witches,
- uphold and strengthen a culture of human rights for all Africans equally,
- respond appropriately and humanely to incidences of violence as a result of accusations of witchcraft,
- make the eradication of violence against suspected witches a national priority,
- train local police to manage witchcraft-related violence in a way that affirms the dignity and humanity of those accused of practicing witchcraft,
- create victim support units to facilitate reintegration and conciliation of those accused,

- adopt comprehensive public education and awareness programmes aimed at eradicating the real causes of witchcraft accusations, and
- reform legislation that currently seeks to suppress witchcraft or criminalize accused witches.

Accusation is not proof !

Victims have the right to be presumed innocent !

There can be no human culture without human rights for all !

We appeal to the SAHRC to support and uphold the constitutional rights to dignity, safety and security for all South Africans without further delay.

The international community will be watching the South Africa Human Rights Commission. Please do the right thing now and prevent further loss of life and abuse to human dignity.

Signature ...

In support of '30 days of advocacy against witch hunts' - 29 March to 27 April.



Campaign Information

<http://tiny.cc/grkcr>

This advocacy campaign is sponsored by the South African Pagan Rights Alliance (SAPRA) and supported by the South African Pagan Council, Pagan Federation International, Pagan Federation England and Wales, Correllian Nativist Tradition (U.S.A. & S.A.), Circle Sanctuary (U.S.A.) and individual international campaign supporters.