

# Makgoba slams Zimbabwe police

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By Kwanele Butana and Sapa



INLSA Anglican Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

The Anglican church is hoping for Christ to break the power of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and bring freedom to that country, Cape Town Anglican Archbishop Thabo Makgoba said yesterday.

He “deplored” the “shocking action” of the Zimbabwean police on Tuesday in preventing the clergy of the Diocese of Harare from holding their annual prayer retreat at Peterhouse School, Makgoba said in a statement .

Police stopped an annual prayer retreat of 80 clergy following claims that it did not have police clearance under sweeping security laws. Zimbabwe’s Anglican Church has been split by a breakaway group led by a bishop close to the president.

The bishop, Nolbert Kunonga, was excommunicated in 2007 after he was accused of inciting violence in sermons supporting Mugabe’s party.

“I call on President Mugabe to ensure that the religious freedom of all Zimbabweans, and especially persecuted Anglicans, is respected, and to instruct the police to allow the churches freedom of assembly and worship,” Makgoba said.

He said Zimbabwe’s Bishop Chad Gandiya shared “in the sufferings of Christ”.

“May they gain strength from the experience and never give in to a cynical and sinister government,” he said.

Makgoba called on partners in the Anglican communion to ask their governments to put pressure on Zimbabwe to end the persecution.

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