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Meeting on Zimbabwe Right to Information Campaign

The Centre for Law and Democracy and the Media Alliance of Zimbabwe brought together a range of groups working on different issues in Bvumba, Zimbabwe yesterday, to discuss a broad-based campaign on the right to information. The groups – working on issues such as HIV-AIDs, the disabled, media freedom, faith-based groups and economic rights – agreed to work together to build a strong network of support for law reform in this area.

“CLD strongly supports the idea of a campaign on the right to information in Zimbabwe at this time”, said Toby Mendel, Executive Director of the Centre for Law and Democracy. *“We believe that this is an area where positive reform may be easier to achieve, although we recognise that significant obstacles remain.”*

Technically, Zimbabwe already has a right to information law, in the form of the very repressive Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. However, this legislation has been used mainly to control the media and few if any civil society groups have been successful in using the law to access information.

“MAZ and its members have been working on this issue for some time”, said Patience Zirima, Coordinator of the Media Alliance of Zimbabwe. *“It is important for us to broaden the campaign at this time, and we believe that this will bring new ideas and strength to the campaign.”*

The two organisations are committed to working together to take the campaign forward.

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