



DITSHWANELO

16 June 2020

Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

First St SE, Washington, DC 20004,
United States

RE: CALL BY AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY FOR REFORM IN THE USA TO ADDRESS STRUCTURAL AND SYSTEMIC INEQUALITY, RACISM AND INJUSTICE

The Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN or the Defenders Network), DITSHWANELO - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights and Africa Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF) writes to you in light of the ongoing recurrent pattern of unlawful arrests and killings of persons of color by the police. We present to your good offices on behalf of civil society organisations and individuals from across the African continent an open letter that was signed by 78 organisations and over 1036 individuals calling for the United States of America to address the ongoing structural and systemic inequality, racism and injustice.

We therefore convey the open letter which is attached to this cover letter for your kind consideration.

[SAHRDN](#) is a network is a non-profit sub-regional network consisting of representatives of civil society organisations from Southern Africa. The Network coordinates regional efforts to provide rapid, practical, comprehensive and inclusive protection support to human rights defenders (HRDs) at high risk, defend civic space, and empower HRDs to mitigate effects of repression. To this end, the Network contributes to the respect and recognition of HRDs as legitimate actors and agents of social change with universally recognized and constitutionally guaranteed rights.

[DITSHWANELO](#) - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights was established in 1993 and it has remained the only organisation in Botswana dealing with all aspects of human rights.

[AJJF](#) is a pan-African network of judges and jurists, who are committed to promoting justice and development in Africa by providing legal expertise to governments, intergovernmental organizations, donor agencies, private sector and civil society organizations in order to bridge the gap between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

We remain at your disposal and convey our highest considerations.

Please contact **Arnold Tsunga**, on atsunga@southernafricadefenders.africa, **Martin Masiga** on okumu-masiga@africanjurist.org, **Alice Mogwe** on alice.mogwe.bw@gmail.com and **Brian T Kagoro** on bkcjnr@gmail.com.

Yours Faithfully

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