



31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

## Unveiling Corruption's Shadow: Defying Alleged Intimidation Against Whistleblowers

*For immediate release*

### Introduction

In the relentless pursuit of truth, the undersigned civil society organisations condemn the alleged audacious plans of the Malawi Army and Malawi Police Service to intimidate the unwavering whistleblowers, Gregory Gondwe and Mercy Matonga. These fearless individuals unearthed the government's covert dealings in the backdoor arms deal with Sattar's company, a fugitive facing criminal charges. This revelation casts a stark light on the government's contempt for transparency, accountability, and the very essence of the rule of law. Gregory is alleged to be in hiding for fear of his life.

### Covert Actions and Implications

Gregory and Mercy's revelation exposed the government's audacious revival of a canceled arms deal, defying a restriction order from the Anti-Corruption Bureau. This clandestine collaboration with Sattar's company not only violates due process but also poses an alarming threat to national security. Beyond legal transgressions, the deal undermines public trust, fosters corruption, and siphons significant funds, showcasing a reckless disregard for fiscal responsibility.

### Urgent Recommendations

1. **Immediate Halt the Alleged Intimidation by Army and Police:** We urgently demand the Malawi Army and Malawi Police Service cease their alleged insidious plans to intimidate Gregory Gondwe and Mercy Matonga. Such actions not only trample upon their fundamental rights but also strike at the core of democracy.
2. **Protection of Freedom of Expression:** The Malawi Army and Malawi Police Service must champion citizens' fundamental human rights, particularly the freedom of expression. A thriving democracy hinges on an environment where individuals can voice concerns without fear of reprisal.
3. **Presidential Denouncement:** We call upon the President, as the Commander of the Army and Police Service, to unequivocally denounce the alleged insidious plans to intimidate the

whistle blowers. The use of democratic entities to suppress citizens demanding accountability flagrantly violates the Republican Constitution, Access to Information Act, and international human rights instruments to which Malawi is a signatory.

### **Conclusion**

In the face of this darkness, the undersigned civil society organisations implore the government to confront the truths exposed by two journalists rather than resorting to intimidation tactics. Upholding transparency, accountability, and the rule of law is not a choice but a mandate for the prosperity of our nation. Failure to heed this call not only jeopardizes ongoing efforts to combat corruption but also threatens the very bedrock of Malawi's democracy. Civil society stands unyielding, united, and poised to take collective action to ensure justice, fairness, and accountability triumph.

**Signed on this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2024 by:**



---

**Benedicto Kondowe**  
**NAP CHAIRPERSON**

### **On behalf of:**

1. National Advocacy Platform
2. Human Rights Defenders Coalition
3. Youth and Society (YAS)
4. Centre for Social Accountability and Transparency
5. National Alliance Against Corruption
6. Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR)
7. Centre for Civil Society Strengthening
8. Civil Society Coalition on Accountability and Transparency
9. Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre
10. Nyika Institute
11. NGO Gender Coordination Network
12. Human Rights Consultative Committee
13. Citizen Alliance
14. Malawi Economic Justice Network
15. NGO Coalition on Child Rights