

Z-AM/ow/OOW7100

A LAW ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA.

. LAZ POSITION ON THE

0"? late mam Association of Zambia has been attacked by some members of the public on its atsnd regarding the question of Human . The general impression created is that the Law 7 ' \_Assoelation otZambia sympathises with crimi- . people at this stage will say that the Governs i. nah, becameits members get butter by defending criminals. In other words R has been anaested that 1A2 supports crime. Some members of the public have come up in ' total of Hon. Newstead Zimba Minis- ter of Home Affairs on his "Shoot on Sight" - - prder. Some members of the public have sug- gested that LAZ is irrelevant, whereas some of- them like Mr Zimba aforesaid, have gone to the ' extent of alleging that the Association never; . stood up to challenge Human Rights abuses in 3 the tint and second Republic. It is high time the , record was put straight. . .

ital CONNECTION BETWEEN LAZ

AND CRIME . .

The impression created that many of the mem- bers' of LAZ practice criminal Law or that they get high fees from en'minal Law, especially in . \_ Ii . defending criminals accused of. perpetuating a ." heinous crimes like aggravated robbery, mur- der or rape is to say the least misleading-and monepus.-Statistics will show that many of - V those charged with such heinous crimes are defended by Government Lawyert, the Legal ' Aid Counsel, at Government expense. Many of them are just too pooytoretaln Lawyers of their own choice. The majority are defended by the state through the Legal Aid scheme. Some ' ment is also involved in promoting banditry and Rope. The question' therefore is whydowe have . i-Any civilised untouwmmcau'tie'cmuo rights . .moepamm oftheMinistryof'

7.? ' - ' - ' -

of its citizens must have a Legal Aid Schemy . thK and USA forestample, as well as in other ' , civilised jurisdictions, Legal Aid Schemes are' so well established that a person charged with serious crimes, is invariably afforded the ser- ,viCes of a . atGovernment . ldeebehincl ' is that it-ia better to acquit a; i guilty person than to convict an innocent per- i 5091???? the need for proper Legal repre- . WhPineUK, and USA 'the' Government l support the Legal Aid Schemes by retaining expenseThe-A . their bread'and .

QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

mite Lawyers on behalf of aecused persons. Some Lawyers in these jurisdictions earn a liv- ing by providing Legal services through the Legal Aid SCHEME. The Gayernment pays their fees. i ' ' .

Even in this country the Association has made suggestions to the Government to revamp the Legal Aid Scheme so that poor members of society especially those charged with SERI-t OUS CRIMES can benefit. -

The Law Association of Zambia does not op- pose human rights abuses with a view to mon- etary gain. The AssociatiOn poses human rights abuses as a matter of p ciple. In fact .the association was established by the people

themselves through an Act of Parliament, the I  
Law Association of Zambia Act CAP 47 of the \_ C  
Laws of Zambia. Among the objects of the  
Association is to seek the advancement of the L  
title of Law and of the rights and liberties of the\_  
individual. Thus the Association will continue  
i to speak out on matters of public importance "  
from a principled stand. Politicians on the  
other hand will come and go with their personal  
views and their Governments' policies, where- .  
as the Association will remain firm and strong  
\_ for ever and will continue to pursue its objee- I  
tives VIGOROUSLY. Mr Zimba's "SHOOT '  
to kill or SHOOT ON SIGHT" order will never .  
be a legitimate Legal Directive. It is illegal. .  
It is also important to note that many Lawyers L  
" 4 lmembers of the Associationl are either in -  
private practice or in the private sector. Such  
Lawyers mainly earn their fees from commer-  
cial, conveyancing, property, Licensing Work  
and civil Litigation. The type of criminal Law  
practised by Lawyers in private practice relates  
' , mainly to less serious crimes. Many people who. '  
have been assisted by Lawyers know what I am  
talking about. They know that a Lawyer is the  
, onllz source of comfort when one is in problems  
wi  
the Law. Wait until you are charged with  
a criminal offence, then you will appreciate the  
services of a Lawyer? Some police otheers who -  
were against Lawyers now support the exist- '  
ence of the Legal Profession, after being  
charged with criminal offences. Lawyers oper-  
ate within the Law. They observe ethics. If they  
9 do not observe ethics they are publicly dis-  
barred. The Association does not hide infor-  
mation on this to members of the public.