



12 August 2023

Press statement

Defend our Democracy notes the release of former President Jacob Zuma from prison under a Presidential remission of sentence process.

We note that the former President did return to the Estcourt Correctional Facility, albeit for a very short time.

We highlight the important rule of law principle in the matter - that the unlawfulness of the former President's release from prison on 'medical parole' in 2021 was upheld after the Constitutional Court dismissed the application for leave to appeal the Supreme Court's ruling.

Defend our Democracy supports calls for further investigation into former National Commissioner of Correctional Services, Arthur Fraser, for the original decision to grant the former President medical parole.

Further detail around the recently approved remission system is also required to prove that it was not instituted simply to allow government and the governing party to let former President Zuma free.

We reject continued insinuation by some of violence should the former President have been imprisoned once again.

Former President Zuma still has a pending arms deal trial, and should remain accountable for any charges that could emerge as a result of the Zondo Commission's findings.

Issued by Defend our Democracy