

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwevigil/48109680708/sizes/m/>

Former South African president Thabo Mbeki has urged Mnangagwa to invite a neutral mediator to preside over the talks with the opposition in Zimbabwe. Why has the government media not reported this?

The persistent distortion of the truth by the Herald, Chronicle and ZBC must be changed if we are ever to have anything like an honest debate in Zimbabwe.

At issue is an interview Mbeki gave to the SABC. The Herald makes out that he entirely supported Mnangagwa's position on talks with other parties. Nowhere in their version is there a hint of any criticism of Mnangagwa (see: <https://www.herald.co.zw/mbeki-speaks-on-zim-dialogue/>).

But looking at other reports of the interview it is clear that the Herald totally ignored Mbeki's comment about a neutral mediator: 'They (MDC) agree in principle to that get-together, but (say) let it be convened by somebody else. So, I'm saying that I hope that's going to happen, it's something that should happen.' (See for instance: <https://news.pindula.co.zw/2019/06/17/mbeki-backs-chamisa-tells-ed-its-not-enough-to-win-an-election/>).

Unpalatable to government media was Mbeki's implicit criticism of Mnangagwa for continuing the charade of talks without the MDC. Mbeki, who helped to establish the government of national unity, knows full well that Chamisa is ready for talks under a neutral convenor and Mbeki accepts that this is the way forward.

As he says: 'For us who are trying to develop our countries, you need maximum unity in order to address a number of national challenges. So it can't be enough to say, 'I won elections and that's it'. I'm saying an initiative such as has been taken in Zimbabwe is correct, and I hope Zimbabweans will indeed be able to come together including the MDC. The MDC must be part of that process. It's important that as a continent we deal with this matter in that way.'

Even Zanu PF is not united behind Mnangagwa's hard line. Speaker of the National Assembly Jacob Mudenda says stability can only be guaranteed if another government of national unity is established. Speaking at the funeral of Morgan Tsvangirai's eldest daughter he said: 'We enjoyed serenity of politics during the GNU. That spirit must come back. It must come back.' He appealed to political leaders 'to find each other for the good of the nation' (see:

<https://www.newzimbabwe.com/mudenda-pleads-for-gnu-calls-on-ed-and-chamisa-to-find-each-other/>

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Other points

- The Chinese man who is alleged to have assaulted a Mashonaland West traditional leader Chief Chivero when he visited his company has apparently been deported. Zimbabweans like Zambians are increasingly unhappy at the ways of Chinese management of local enterprises. The situation in Tanzania has gone further with President Magufuli suspending plans for what would have been East Africa's largest port. He said: 'The conditions set by the investors amount to selling Tanzania to China.' (See: <https://www.constructionkenya.com/3128/bagamoyo-port-construction/>.)

- The local authority responsible for the Zimbabwe Embassy area has made it much more attractive by installing large plant containers with flowers around the four maple trees where we gather for the Vigil.

- Thanks to those who came early to help set up the front table today and put up the banners: Happy Chazuza, Beulah Gore, Isabell Gwatidzo, Jonathan Kariwo, Alice Majola, Rosemary Maponga, Lucia Mudzimu, Tapiwa Muskwe, Mary Muteyerwa, Tsitsi Nyirongo, Hazvinei Saili, Ephraim Tapa and Bridget Zhakata. Thanks to Rosemary, Tsitsi and Dambudzo for looking after the front table, to Hazvinei, Alice and Bridget for handing out flyers, to Mary and Margaret for drumming and to Jonathan for photos.

- For latest Vigil pictures check: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwewigil/> . Please note: Vigil photos can only be downloaded from our Flickr website.

FOR THE RECORD: 29 signed the register.

EVENTS AND NOTICES:

- **ROHR fundraising dinner.** Saturday 29th June from 6 pm till late. Venue: Zazas, 108 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1JE. Contact: Esther Munyira 07492058109, Fungisai Mupandira 07468504393, Siphon Ndlovu 07400566013, Patricia Masamba 07708116625, Simbarashe Jingo 07787870888, Pamela Chirimuta 07762737339, Sikhumbuzule Sibanda

07912210225, and Farai Muroiwa 07365431776.

- **ROHR general members' meeting.** Saturday 6th July from 11.30 am. Venue: Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, Belvedere Road SE1 8XX. Contact: Ephraim Tapa 07940793090, Patricia Masamba 07708116625.

- **ROHR sponsored walk.** Saturday 27th July. Contact: Esther Munyira 07492058109, Siphon Ndlovu 07400566013, Patricia Masamba and Farai Muroiwa 07365431776. More information as plans progress.

- **The Restoration of Human Rights in Zimbabwe (ROHR)** is the Vigil's partner organization based in Zimbabwe. ROHR grew out of the need for the Vigil to have an organization on the ground in Zimbabwe which reflected the Vigil's mission statement in a practical way. ROHR in the UK actively fundraises through membership subscriptions, events, sales etc to support the activities of ROHR in Zimbabwe. Please note that the official website of ROHR Zimbabwe is <http://www.rohrzimbabwe.org/>

. Any other website claiming to be the official website of ROHR in no way represents us.

- **The Vigil's book 'Zimbabwe Emergency'** is based on our weekly diaries. It records how events in Zimbabwe have unfolded as seen by the diaspora in the UK. It chronicles the economic disintegration, violence, growing oppression and political manoeuvring – and the tragic human cost involved. It is available at the Vigil. All proceeds go to the Vigil and our sister organisation the Restoration of Human Rights in Zimbabwe's work in Zimbabwe. The book is also available from Amazon.

- **Facebook pages:**

Vigil: <https://www.facebook.com/zimbabwевigil> ROHR: <https://www.facebook.com/Restoration-of-Human-Rights-ROHR-Zimbabwe-International-370825706588551/>

ZAF:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Zimbabwe-Action-Forum-ZAF/490257051027515>