

On the eve of the SADC summit in Johannesburg, people at the Vigil were encouraged by the strong line on Zimbabwe voiced by ANC President Jacob Zuma, who said regional leaders should not leave South Africa without resolving the matter.

In contrast to Mbeki's dishonest 'quiet diplomacy', the new South African government has acknowledged that there is indeed a crisis in Zimbabwe and one which requires noisy strong-arm tactics to break the deadlock.

The Vigil's view is that Mugabe's illegitimate regime – whatever it may say – has no intention at all of sharing real power and that SADC must insist on new, internationally-monitored elections, as proposed by Botswana.

As Zimbabweans we urge SADC to:

1. Refuse to recognise the Mugabe regime
2. Suspend visas for the Mugabe cronies and freeze their bank accounts
3. Support tougher action against the Mugabe regime by the UN Security Council
4. Support Botswana in the event of a military attack by Zimbabwe
5. Seek donor funds to set up refugee camps in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique for Zimbabwean asylum seekers

Some snapshots:

- * Another lively turnout despite dismal weather. We were glad to have with us the well-known Zimbabwean soul singer Ivy Kombo who gave an extra dimension to our music
- * We had a wonderful view of the Lord Mayor's procession, which included the Horse Guards and magnificent carriages (see pictures)
- * Among visitors was an adviser to President-elect Barack Obama who said he agreed with our banner 'Arrest Mugabe for Torture'. He said he had met both Mugabe and Samora Machel
- * Vigil supporter, Fungayi Mabunu, met Bob Marley's widow, Rita, at a concert by Chiwoniso Maraire who dedicated one of her songs to the suffering WOZA women. Rita said it was sad to see what was happening in Zimbabwe – she vividly remembered how beautiful and prosperous Zimbabwe was when she visited with her late husband.
- * Thanks to Bazil Bhanabhai, a South African who stopped by with lots of superb cakes from his wife's catering firm (Aishas Catering). It was more than our 115 or so supporters could handle so at the end we handed over what was left to the local homeless people who were very grateful
- * We said farewell to David McAllister who is going overseas to work for a few months. He has done some excellent work on the Zimvigil website which we hope will go live this week
- * Ed Spring from Caribbean Labour Solidarity (CLS) visited us – members of the Vigil spoke at a CLS meeting last week and Ed is planning to invite a Zimbabwean speaker to a future meeting to follow up on what was said

Vigil Diary 08-11-08

Written by Administrator

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For latest Vigil pictures see the link in the updates column

FOR THE RECORD: around 115 signed the register.

FOR YOUR DIARY:

* **Central London Zimbabwe Forum.** Monday, 10th November at 7.30 pm. The speaker will be John Nyamande, MDC MP for Makoni Central. Venue: Downstairs at the Bell and Compass, 9-11 Villiers Street, London, WC2N 6NA, next to Charing Cross Station at the corner of Villiers Street and John Adam Street.

* **ROHR meeting in West Yorkshire.** Saturday, 15th November, 13.30 – 17.00 pm. Venue: Celandine Close, Carlton Glen, Pontefract, Wakefield WF8 2SL. For more information contact Donnah Mugoni 07748828913, E Mkwaira 07780808101, B Sikosana 07940181761 or P Mapfumo 07533831617 / 07932216070.

* **Next Glasgow Vigil.** Saturday, 22nd November 2008, 2 – 6 pm. Venue: Argyle Street Precinct. For more information contact: Patrick Dzimba, 07990 724 137. This will be followed by the **RO**

HR launch in Scotland

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Saturday, 22nd November 2008, 6 – 9 pm. Venue: Langside Hall (reception room). Very close to Glasgow City Centre. (Buses 23; 38,38A,B,C; 45; 47; 5734; 90). Contact P Dzimba on 07990724137, C Samas 07799156802 or P Mapfumo on 07932216070 or 07533831617.

* **Zimbabwe Association's Women's Weekly Drop-in Centre.** Fridays 10.30 am – 4 pm. Venue: The Fire Station Community and ICT Centre, 84 Mayton Street, London N7 6QT, Tel: 020 7607 9764. Nearest underground: Finsbury Park. For more information contact the Zimbabwe Association 020 7549 0355 (open Tuesdays and Thursdays).