

Another drenching day. Our tarpaulin collected gallons of rainwater which we periodically unloaded by prodding it with umbrellas. It was a bedraggled day for our partners, the Zimbabwe Association, who were marking it as a 'singing for our supper' day in towns all over Britain. To quote them, '

After years of being stranded in the limbo of a seemingly endless asylum process, hundreds of Zimbabweans in the

UK

are now destitute and without support. Those attempting to support themselves are faced with criminalisation for working without permission. In this season of goodwill desperate Zimbabweans ask for their status as refugees to be recognized, so that they can stand on their own feet, support themselves, pay taxes and rebuild their lives.' The Vigil was happy to join the Zimbabwe Association choir singing carols in the rain in English, Shona and Ndebele. Money collected from passers-by will go to help destitute Zimbabweans in the

UK

and to assist with the cholera crisis.

The Vigil's own carol day will take place next week when we are mounting a media stunt on the last Saturday before Christmas. Our Mugabe impersonator, Fungayi Mabhunu, will make an appearance as Father Cholera dressed in the traditional Santa Claus suit and wearing our Mugabe mask. He will hand out presents labelled cholera, anthrax, starvation, violence, murder, rape, torture, greed etc,etc. Passers-by will be invited to light candles before a Cross in the doorway of the Embassy.

Yes, we know, a Cross at Zimbabwe House! There is bound to be an angry complaint to the police from the devil's own Ambassador.

The Vigil wishes to show the passing public the horrors of the Zimbabwe Christmas this year in contrast with our Western Christmas even during the current economic downturn.

Vigil Diary 13th December 2008

Written by Administrator

Sunday, 14 December 2008 19:55 - Last Updated Sunday, 14 December 2008 20:08

Fungayi today had a trial run with his Father Cholera outfit and was interviewed by CNN, who filmed the Vigil. The Vigil is always asked to put forward people to speak about the Zimbabwe crisis and Fungayi earlier this week appeared on France 24 TV.

Luka Phiri of the Zimbabwe Association and the Vigil appeared on BBC television.

Ephraim Tapa was interviewed by Deutsche Welle Radio on Human Rights Day about his torture experiences.

The plight of Zimbabwean human rights campaigner, Jestina Mukoko, and other activists who have been abducted in Zimbabwe has prompted international concern. The Independent Catholic News has set up a petition (see <http://www.indcatho.com/petition324.html>)

). They asked us where they can submit it and we are putting them in touch with SW Radio Africa's page of recommended action from Amnesty International - <http://www.swradioafrica.com/pages/disappeared101208.htm>

Isaac Ngoro, Interim Chair of ROHR in Liverpool reports that they help another protest on Saturday, 13th December. "Another rainy and cold day for Liverpool
ol
activists as they presented once more their petition to the lovely and friendly community of Liverpool
in
Church Street
. As the cholera epidemic sweeps across the country
Liverpool
activists tried their best to let the world realise how bad the scenario in Zimbabwe
is." They are running the Vigil petitions and report that they collected 409 signatures.

See 'For your Diary' for details of their next protest.

Vigil Diary 13th December 2008

Written by Administrator

Sunday, 14 December 2008 19:55 - Last Updated Sunday, 14 December 2008 20:08

For latest Vigil pictures check the pictures page.

FOR THE RECORD: 94 signed the register.

FOR YOUR DIARY:

* **Central London Zimbabwe Forum.** Monday 15th December at 7.30 pm. The speaker is Dr. Farai Madzimbamuto, a Director of Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, who will talk about the cholera epidemic.

V

venue:

The

Cole

Room

, Fabian Society,

11 Dartmouth St

,

London

SW1H 9BN

(020 7227 4900). Nearest station: St. James' Park.

* **Next ROHR Liverpool Protest.** Saturday, 20th December 2008 from 14.00 – 16.00. Venue:

Bold Street,

Liverpool City

Centre.

* **ROHR Wolverhampton Christmas Party.** Saturday 20th December. Venue: Heath Town

Community Centre

, 208 Chervil Rise,

Wolverhampton

WV10 0HP. Contact: Colleen Maredza

07733394648

, Nancy Mangwandu

07727019329

, Tendai Sithole

Vigil Diary 13th December 2008

Written by Administrator

Sunday, 14 December 2008 19:55 - Last Updated Sunday, 14 December 2008 20:08

07966381953

.

* **ROHR Brighton Christmas Fundraising Party.** Saturday 20th December. Venue: St Leonard Church Hall, 12 Glebe Villas, Hove, Brighton BN3 5SL. Admission £5 (one plate of Isithwala/Sadza and two drinks free). Contact: Sinikiwe Dube
07824668763
, Seph Mpofu
07786164808
, Phyllis Chibanguza
07535936460

.

* **Next Glasgow Vigil. Saturday,** 20th December 2008, 2 – 6 pm. Venue: Argyle Street Precinct. For more information contact: Patrick Dzimba, 07990 724 137
, Tafadzwa Musemwa 07954 344 123 and Roggers Fatiya 07769 632 687.

* **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).