

A triumphant cheer with exuberant ululating greeted two members of the Vigil management team, Dumi Tutani and Luka Phiri, when they arrived at the Vigil after completing a 55-mile sponsored walk from Brighton on the south coast. Despite their exhaustion, they immediately joined in the celebratory dancing.

They had set off just before 5 am and covered the distance (twice the length of a marathon) in thirteen and a half hours including two short breaks. “I really enjoyed it” said Dumi, wearing a Vigil tshirt. “People were very supportive as we passed by”. Luka, whose idea it was, could not suppress a huge grin.

The walk was to raise funds to help a Zimbabwean girl with a severe facial tumour who is coming to the UK for urgent medical treatment. The girl, Taremeredzwa Nomatter Mapungwana, is supported by the Zimbabwean charity Girl Child Network ( <http://girlchildnetworkworldwide.org/> ). Tare is to have an operation soon at St Bartholomew’s Hospital in London

Dumi and Luka were greeted at the Vigil by Betty Makoni, founder of Girl Child Network, who was warm in her praise. “Because of your walk people here have now heard of our work”.

Betty addressed the Vigil about her experience as an activist on women’s issues. She said she had been forced to flee Zimbabwe because of her role in helping women victims of political violence. She said one woman she had helped had been traumatized by being raped by 18 soldiers. Another, who was pregnant when she was raped, had been so badly injured that the doctor she was taken to in Botswana had cried. A recent appeal for help had been from a woman on her deathbed as a result of injuries sustained in June last year.

She added that women that had been raped didn’t find it easy to share their stories.

Betty said rape had been used as a weapon of war since 2002 and women and their families were still being harassed and intimidated. Husbands would be taunted by the perpetrators, who

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believed they could act with impunity While Betty spoke to the Vigil about the situation in Zimbabwe a different picture was being painted at a conference elsewhere in London addressed by representatives of the Zimbabwe government trying to get the diaspora to invest back home – despite the clear absence of the rule of law displayed so eloquently by Mugabe's xenophonic ranting at the UN.

We had a good attendance despite many Restoration of Human Rights supporters attending a ROHR fundraising party in Birmingham.

For latest Vigil pictures check: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwewigil/>

**FOR THE RECORD:** 170 signed the register.

### EVENTS AND NOTICES:

- **ROHR Bournemouth general meeting.** Saturday 3rd October from 1.30 – 5.30 pm.  
Venue: East Cliff Reformed Church, Holdenhurst  
Road,  
BH8 8AW  
. Contact: Mike Mhene  
07774521837  
, Abigail Nzimba  
07917458873,  
Gift Pfupa  
07909831158,  
Sekai Mujeyi  
07765244138 or P Mapfumo 07915926323 / 07932216070
- **ROHR Surrey & Hants general meeting.** Saturday 3rd October from 1.30 – 5.30 pm.  
Venue: 10 Elmdene Court, Constitution Hill,  
Woking  
,  
Surrey  
,  
GU22 7SA  
. Contact: Isacc Mudzamiri  
07774044873  
, Thoko Hlokama  
07886203113  
, Thandi Mabodoko

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01483826764

or P Mapfumo

07915926323

/

07932216070.

Feedback from the Chair's meeting held in  
Coventry

· **Zimbabwe Vigil – 7th Anniversary.** Saturday 10th October at 6.30 pm. The Vigil  
started on

12th

October 2002

and we are marking this anniversary on the nearest Saturday to that date.

There will be a social gathering after the Vigil,  
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 West Bromwich general meeting.** Saturday 31st October from 1.30 – 5.30 pm.  
Venue: St Peters Church Hall, Whitehall

Road, West Bromwich B70 0HF. ROHR Executive and a well known lawyer present. Contact  
Pamela Dunduru 07958386718, Diana Mtendereki 07768682961, Peter Nkomo 07817096594  
or P Mapfumo 07915926323 / 0793221607

· **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).

· **From Liberator to Dictator by Mike Auret.** This is a personal account of the unravelling  
of Zimbabwe, written by an insider who was  
prepared to keep faith with Robert Mugabe until it was almost too late. Michael Auret served for  
many years on Zimbabwe's

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respected Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace, which worked tirelessly to defend human rights in that country. In this memoir, he traces his involvement in the politics of his country, from his days as an opposition MP in Ian Smith's

Rhodesia

to his involvement with the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and his election as MP for Harare Central in the brutal election of 2000.

[http://www.newafricabooks.co.za/books\\_detail.asp?ID=499](http://www.newafricabooks.co.za/books_detail.asp?ID=499)

- **Strategic Internship for Zimbabweans** organised by Citizens for Sanctuary which is trying to secure work placements for qualified Zimbabweans with refugee status or asylum seekers. More information: <http://www.citizensfor Sanctuary.org.uk/pages/Strategic.html> or contact: [zimbabweinternship@cof.org.uk](mailto:zimbabweinternship@cof.org.uk)