

**There has been some good coverage of the day. SW Radio Africa ( <http://www.swradioafrica.com> ) have a picture of Mugabe and Shopwell outside Harrods at the top of their website and have put a link to the Vigil photos taken on the day. The Vigil anniversary will be featured on SW Radio's 'Callback' programme tomorrow (Tuesday, 13th October).**

**Our friends ZBN News have done an excellent video of the day, check <http://www.zbnnews.com/> and we are featured on [www.zimbabwesituation.com](http://www.zimbabwesituation.com)**

**There are some great photos of Mugabe outside Harrods on <http://www.sky.com/hot-topics/Zimbabwe> with the following commentary. 'A protestor wearing a mask which resembles the face of Zimbabwe's president Robert Mugabe stands outside Harrods retail store in London on**

## **October 10, 2009**

**. The protestor was part of the human rights organisation Zimbabwe Vigil. The group was calling for the British government and European Union to suspend government to government aid to all 14 South African Development community (SADC) countries until Zimbabwe's human rights record is improved.'□**

**Our good friend, Betty Makoni of Girl Child Network has sent us the following message:**

**'Congratulations for a job well done.□ You named and shamed them. The article is a moving testimony.'□**

**Finally Geoffrey Van Orden  
has sent out his own press  
release.□**

**Released by: Geoffrey Van  
Orden MEP**

**Mass protest outside Zimbab  
we  
Embassy on 7th Anniversary  
of Lo  
ndon  
Vigil for Freedom**

**Hundreds of Zimbabweans gathered outside the Zimbabwean Embassy in London on Saturday (10 October) to protest at the continued denial of basic freedoms by the Mugabe regime. Previously, there had been a ‘shopping expedition’ to Harrods by protestors masquerading as Robert and Grace Mugabe.**

**On the occasion of the 7th**

**Anniversary of this London vigil, the protestors presented a petition (Saturday 10 October) with thousands of signatures to Geoffrey Van Orden MEP, who spearheads the fight against the Mugabe regime in the European Parliament. The petition demands action from Zimbabwe's neighbours.**

**In his address to the**

**protestors, Mr Van Orden undertook to present the petition to the President of the European Parliament and commented:**

**“Mugabe’s regime is entirely to blame for the tragedy which has afflicted Zimbabwe for the past decade and more. We want to see a normalisation of relations with Zimbabwe but this cannot happen until**

**freedom is restored, the rule of law prevails and there is an end to political oppression – that means Mugabe must step down.**

**“Last September's power-sharing Global Political Agreement (GPA) has not been respected. The EU's travel restrictions and bank freeze on Mugabe's cronies must remain in place until there is real change.**

**“The key to change rests with Zimbabwe’s neighbours, South Africa in particular. It is shameful that most of them have conspired to keep Mugabe in power, thereby prolonging the misery of the people of Zimbabwe and the economic problems of the southern African region.”**

**ENDS**

**Note to editors:**



**Geoffrey Van Orden, Conservative MEP for the East of England, has been a campaigner for a free and democratic Zimbabwe since first being elected in 1999. He has initiated 17 Urgency Resolutions on the topic in the European Parliament. He has been personally banned by Mugabe from travelling to Zimbabwe - a ban which he regards as a badge of honour.**

**The petition states: “We record our dismay at the failure of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to help the desperate people of Zimbabwe at their time of trial. We urge the UK government and the European Union in general to suspend government to government aid to SADC countries until they abide by**

**their joint commitment to uphold human rights in the region. We suggest that the money should instead be used to feed the starving in Zimbabwe**

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