

The Vigil marked May Day by supporting an appeal from Amnesty International for the Zimbabwean authorities to stop intimidating and harassing human rights activists. People at the Vigil carried placards reading: 'May Day Appeal - End Human Rights Abuses in Zimbabwe', 'May Day Appeal - Protect Human Rights Activists in Zimbabwe' and 'Vigil Supports Oppressed Trade Unionists in Zimbabwe'.

Amnesty International official Shane Enright said: "It's so important that people around the world stand in solidarity with the brave human rights and trade union activists in Zimbabwe this May Day. Our message to the police and security services is that we are watching you and will call you to account, however long it takes."

It seems that it will take longer than expected given South Africa's failure so far to get Mugabe to comply with the GPA, and Arthur 'dimwit' Mutambara's declared intention to avoid any elections which will return him to academic obscurity.

May Day is traditionally a workers' celebration and thousands of demonstrators converging on Trafalgar Square passed by the Vigil. Some of them shouted 'Down with Mugabe'. It was a difficult Vigil because it flooded down with rain half way through.

We had to act fast to stop our petitions being soaked. (By the way these are what our current petitions say:

'A petition to the UK government:

We welcome the UK's humanitarian assistance to Zimbabwe but call on the UK government to withhold development aid until it is confident that the money will benefit the people rather than the corrupt Mugabe regime'. And '

Petition to the UN Security Council:

We call on the Security Council to ensure that the next elections in Zimbabwe

are free and fair. We look to the United Nations to supervise the electoral process and the handover of power to a new government and believe peace-keeping troops will need to be in place before, during and after the polling.')

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Traffic holdups because of the May Day demonstrations were a problem. The car carrying our paraphernalia was forced on many detours back and forth across the Thames and eventually could get no closer than half a mile from the Embassy.

A group of Vigilites had to go and fetch the Vigil tables, posters, banners, tarpaulin, drums, merchandise (Vigil tshirts and Zimbabwean flags), petitions, flags and Zimbabwean newspapers. Even though the paraphernalia was delivered late the Vigil started on time because a big group of supporters in their Vigil tshirts reading 'Zimbabwe in our hands' and

Zimbabwe Vigil

, Zimbabwe House, London – Saturdays until freedom comes' were there at 2 pm.

The May Day demonstrations were mostly in support of labour solidarity around the world but here is a random sample of flyers from other participants: 'European week of action against the deportation machine', 'Why we need justice for domestic workers', 'Support the revolution in Nepal', 'Oppose the crumbling British imperialist state!', etc.

A couple of points

- Despite the hubbub of May Day, people at the Vigil could clearly hear a song bird in one of our maple trees. We only saw one bird but we presume it is building a nest.
- Mathias Makozhombwe of Motherland ENT has posted two new videos of the Vigil on Youtube. Check our 'Events and Notices' Section for the links.

For latest Vigil pictures check: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwевigil/> . For the latest ZimVigil TV programme check the link at the top of the home page of our website.

For earlier ZimVigil TV programmes check:

<http://www.zbnnews.com/home/firingline>

FOR THE RECORD: 173 signed the register.

EVENTS AND NOTICES:

- **London Citizens and Citizens UK pre-election assembly** with David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Gordon Brown. Monday 3

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May from 3 – 5 pm. Venue: Methodist Central Hall,
Westminster
, Storey's Gate,
London
SW1H 9NH.

On the agenda is the Sanctuary Pledge (calling for an end to child detention and more support for people seeking sanctuary), Strangers into Citizens and the Living Wage. For tickets contact Eunita Masolo, email:

e_masolo@yahoo.com

, phone: 07949 736 222. The organizers would like a big turn-out of Zimbabweans.

· **ROHR Woking Branch 1st Anniversary Party.** Saturday 8th May from 3 – 10 pm.

Venue: St Pauls Church Hall,
Oriental Road

, Woking GU22 7BD. Raffle for two hampers. Tickets £6 adults £3.00 kids which includes entry and meal. Contact: Mr Mudzamiri 07774044873, Jermaine 07908522992, Sithokozile 07886203113 or P Mapfumo 07915326323/07932216070.

· **ROHR Liverpool Demonstration. Saturday 8th May from 2 – 5 pm. Venue: Church Street (Outside Primark) Liverpool City Centre.**

For details please contact: Desire Chimuka

07917733711

, **Anywhere Mungoyo**

07939913688

, **Trywell Migeri**

07956083758.

Next demonstration on Saturday 22

nd

May. Same venue and time.

· **ROHR Brighton Zimbabwean Community Family Fun Evening.** Saturday 8th May from 4 – 10.30 pm. Venue: Leonards

Church Hall

, Glebe Villas,

Hove

· Nearest train station:

Portslade. For directions please contact Elizabeth Masoka

07545458436

, Jane Mugwagwa

07833301145

, Wellington

Mamvura

07956870547, Patience Chiguta 07780667422 or P Mapfumo 07915926323/ 07932216070

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. Lots of entertainment, food, raffle and disco – free entry.

· **ROHR Harlow general meeting.** Saturday 15th May from 1.30 – 5.30 pm. Venue: Perry Road
Harlow
CM18 7NP

. Substantive committee to be elected and ROHR President and ROHR Executive present.
Contact: L Kashangura 07506481334, Blessing Office 07759884633, Bothwell Nyemba 07725208657, Grace Kachingwe 07529524965 or P Mapfumo 07915926323/07932216070

· **ROHR Cambridge fundraising event.** Saturday 22nd May from 4 – 10 pm. Venue: Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge CB4 2LD. African music, food and drinks hobho. Entrance fee £10 including food. Contact: Jospheth Hapazari 07782398725, Locadia Mugari 07501304116, Sibusisiwe Bafana 07765268622, Percy Marimba 07894670271 or P Mapfumo 07915926323/07932216070

· **ROHR North London General Meeting.** Saturday 22nd May from 1:30-5:30. Venue: Tottenham Chances,
399 High Road
London
N17 6QN. Closest Tube -Seven Sisters. From Seven Sisters towards Tottenham three stops on buses

123,149,256,349,341 and 476

ROHR Executive and Guest Speakers in attendance. Fundraising raffle and draw.

Contact

Bekithemba Nyahwa
07534905348
, Nobuhle Ndlovu
07949588597

Wellington
Chinombe
07529290157

Chipo Denenga
07960761122
, P Mapfumo
07915926323.

· **ROHR West Bromwich Branch fundraising event.** Saturday 29th May from 1 – 11pm.
Venue: St Peters Church Hall, White
hall

Rd, West Bromwich B70 0HF. Admission £8.00 including food and drink. Contact: Pamela Dunduru 07958386718, Diana Mtendereki 07768682961, Peter Nkomo 07817096594, Godwin Kativu 07576994816 or P Chibanguza 07908406069

· **ROHR Northampton General Meeting.** Saturday 5th June at 2 pm. Venue: Carey Memorial Baptist Church

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,
King Street

,
Kettering

,
Northants

,
NN16 8QL

. ROHR Executive members present and Guest Speakers. Contact: Marshall Rusike
07833787775, Wadzanayi Mpandawana

07717795574, G

ladys Milanzi

07846 448 711,

Norian Chindowa

07954379426,

Sherry Ngaseke

07869295544 Or P Mapfumo 07915 926 323 / 07932 216 070.

. **OTIENO by Trevor Michael Georges.** A contemporary reworking of Shakespeare's Othello, set against the continuing deprivation of present-day Zimbabwe

. From Tuesday 25

th

May – Saturday 12

th

June at

7.30 pm

, matinees 3 pm. Venue: Southwark Playhouse, Shipwright Yard (Corner of Tooley St. & Bermondsey St.),

London

SE1 2TF. For tickets

ring

020 7407 0234 or book online

[here](#)

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• **Swaziland Vigil.** Saturdays from 10 am – 1 pm. Venue: Swazi High Commission, 20 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB. Please support our Swazi friends. Nearest stations: St James's Park and Victoria. For more information check:

www.swazilandvigil.co.uk

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• **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:

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Finsbury

Park

. For more information contact the Zimbabwe Association 020 7549 0355 (open Tuesdays and Thursdays).

· **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. For information:

<http://www.citizensforsanctuary.org.uk/pages/Strategic.html>

or contact:

zimbabweinternship@cof.org.uk

· **For Motherland ENT's videos** of the Vigil on 24/04/2009, check: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvwikOhO3Fk> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7qqXJ7jfVY>.