

Vigil supporters will wear mourning bands next Saturday to mark the second anniversary of the signing of the abortive Global Political Agreement. The demonstration will also mark the failure of the Mugabe regime to meet the 30 day deadline set at the SADC summit for a settlement of the outstanding issues in the GPA.

The Vigil had hoped to be redundant by now but this dysfunctional 'unity' government has produced nothing but new life for Mugabe. Vigil supporters will carry posters to the South African High Commission to underline our demand that President Zuma should take the gloves off in dealing with Mugabe. If South Africa is serious about boating out Zimbabwean refugees at the end of the year it will have to ensure they have a homeland safe to return to.

'They chopped at my leg as if it was firewood. I remember seeing my leg where they threw it, the shoe still on it'. This was the testimony of an MDC activist featured in an exhibition of photographs in London taken by an award winning Getty Images photographer who traveled anonymously to Zimbabwe last year. See: www.prisonersofconscience.org

The first photograph shows: 'This young burns victim sits alone in his room. He is a former MDC activist who now has limited use of his hands and is blind in one eye'.

Another photograph was accompanied by the caption: 'He was taken with 4 men and a woman to a Zanu-PF militia base where the female captive was gutted with a knife in front of their eyes, her corpse tossed into the cells with the remaining captives. Each was told the day they were going to die. They were each made to drink 750 mls of liquid glue every day which caused chronic diarrhoea and poisoning. Another man was stabbed to death and when one of the remaining captives refused to cut up the dead bodes so that they could be disposed of, the torturers cut off his feet'.

Have you got the message President Zuma? A brochure produced by the Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund, which organised the exhibition, says: 'Zimbabwe is a ruined land. A formerly thriving breadbasket of African opportunity, its leaders have reduced it to a failed state of mass exodus to the South and mass poverty and brutality within. There is no state structure

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Written by Administrator

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for her people, only dictatorship and repression by Robert Mugabe and his Zanu PF party cronies. Zanu PF has been careful to hold onto absolute control of the army, the police, the banks and the mines. These give Mugabe control and allow for the brutalisation of the Zimbabwean people to continue despite the supposed changes this transition period is meant to bring’.

This is the Zimbabwe that Zuma wants to send exiles back to: ‘A week later his body was discovered in the bush. The government post-mortem recorded ‘decomposition’ as the cause of death’. Decomposed . . . that’s Zimbabwe alright. Another picture: ‘A severely ill HIV positive young woman alone in a one bedroom shack in an township in Harare . She says “my parents are dead, my brother and everyone I know is unemployed. I have nothing. That is why I am dying now”.’

One of the people President Zuma proposes to deport is picture number 042: ‘This crippled man aged 32 stands on crutches outside his room in Johannesburg . . . ‘ This was his last experience of Zanu PF: ‘he managed to drag himself off the road despite his two broken legs, multiple other broken bones and 3 shattered vertebrae.’

This is what the Vigil wants from South Africa: African solidarity. What we mean by that is not African dictators’ solidarity but help so that we can have free and fair elections. Mugabe says he wants elections next year because he thinks he can bludgeon his way to another victory. South Africa must insist that violence should not determine the outcome of the next elections or we will have more pictures like the ones in the exhibition.

For latest Vigil pictures check: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwewigil/> . 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: 186 signed the register.

EVENTS AND NOTICES:

• **The Restoration of Human Rights in Zimbabwe (ROHR)** is the Vigil's partner organisation based in Zimbabwe. ROHR grew out of the need for the Vigil to have an organisation on the ground in Zimbabwe which reflected the Vigil's mission statement in a practical way. ROHR in the UK actively fundraises through membership subscriptions, events, sales etc to support the activities of ROHR in Zimbabwe.

• **Ministering to the Diaspora: a case study of Zimbabweans in Britain.** Wednesday 15th September from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm. Venue: Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, SS Philip & James Church, Woodstock Road

Oxford OX2 6HR. A conference to help identify unique needs, the services Christian organizations are offering and can offer (but are not), identifying what more needs to be done and how this might be achieved, and drawing up a co-ordinated action plan. For more information, contact: Clayton Peel

capeel@ocms.ac.uk
or phone 01865 882 421.

• **Protest to mark the second anniversary of the signing of the Zimbabwean Global Political Agreement.** Saturday 18th September from 2 – 6 pm.

• **ROHR Bristol demonstration.** Saturday 18th September from 2 – 5 pm. Venue: 10 St Augustine's Parade, Bristol BS1 4ZU. Opposite the Hippodrome by the water sprinklers. ROHR President attending. Contact: Ronald Oputeri 07799893695, Bridgita Mubaiwa 07789084534, Emelia Sydney 07733816947, Cecelia Ndhlovu 07545118593, Agnes Chidhakwa 07838773268, P Mapfumo 07915926323.

• **ROHR Derby general meeting.** Saturday 18th September from 2 – 5.30 pm. Venue: St Augustine's Church, Upper Dale Road

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Derby

DE23 8BP. ROHR executive members present so those with questions here is your chance.

Contact Tsitsi Razawe 07773649330, Wonder Katurura 07858699224, P Chibanguza

07908406069 or P Mapfumo 07915926323/07932216070

• **ROHR Stoke-on-Trent general meeting.** Saturday 18th September from 2 – 6 pm.

Venue: Christ Church, Tunstall

High Street

,

Stoke-on-Trent

ST6 5XG

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ROHR executive members present. For info contact David R Mugwira 07833943494,

Maxwell Dube

07533349840, Pauline Mtema 07850462301, Faith Pemba 07780594852, P Chibanguza

07908406069/07534626040 or P Mapfumo on 07915926323/07932216070

• **ROHR Yorkshire general meeting.** Saturday 18th September from 2 – 5 pm. Venue:

Dock Green Inn,

Ashley

Rd

, Le

eds

LS9 7AB. Contact

Chinofunga Ndogo 07877993826, Prosper Mudamvanji 07897594874, Wonder Mubaiwa

07958758568, Donna Mugoni 07748828913 or R Chifungo 07795070609

• **IOM Live Video Conference with Returnees in Zimbabwe.** Wednesday 22nd

September from

9.30 am

to 1.30 pm. Venue: International Organisation for Migration,

21

Westminster

Palace

Gardens

, Artillery Row,

London

SW1P 1RR.

Attendance is free, but registration is required. To confirm your attendance or for more information about the event, please call 020 7808 1083 or email

infouk@iom.int

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Lunch will be provided.

• **ROHR Coventry general meeting.** Saturday 25th September from 1 – 5 pm. Venue: 90a

Paynes Lane

,

Coventry

CV1 5JH

. ROHR National Executive and a well known lawyer present. Contact V.J Mujeye

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07534034594, Matambanashe Sibanda 07886660392, Pauline Makuwere 07575265710, P. Mapfumo 07932216070/07915926323 or P Chibanguza 07908406069

· **ROHR Basildon and Thurrock general meeting.** Saturday 25th September from 2 – 6 pm. Venue: WRVS, Richmond Road

· Benfleet

· Essex

· ROHR executive members present. Contact Tobokwa Malikogwa 07865156381, Nhamo E Kumumvuri 07623337115 or P Mapfumo 07915926323/07932216070.

· **LoveZim International Prayer Day.** Sunday 26th September. LoveZim is asking that people join them in prayer for Zimbabwe on this day. For more information check:

www.lovezim.com

· **Zimbabwe Vigil's 8th Anniversary.** Saturday 9th October from 2 – 6 pm.

· **Vigil Facebook page:** <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8157345519&ref=ts> .

· **Vigil Myspace page:** <http://www.myspace.com/zimbabwevigil> .

· **'Through the Darkness', Judith Todd's acclaimed account of the rise of Mugabe.** □ To receive a copy by post in the UK please email confirmation of your order and postal address to

ngwenyasr@yahoo.co.uk

and send a cheque for £10 payable to "Budiro Trust" to Emily Chadburn, 15 Burners Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 0QA. All proceeds go to the Budiro Trust which provides bursaries to needy A Level students in Zimbabwe

· **Workshops aiming to engage African men on HIV testing and other sexual health issues.** Organised by the Terrence Higgins Trust (www.tht.org.uk). Please contact the co-ordinator Takudzwa Mukiwa ([t](mailto:akudzwa.mukiwa@tht.org.uk))

akudzwa.mukiwa@tht.org.uk

if you are interested in taking part.