

Details of how elements in Zimbabwe are trying to hi-jack our sister organisation Restoration of Human Rights in Zimbabwe (ROHR) were given at the Vigil by ROHR's President, Ephraim Tapa. He said the organisation was becoming increasingly prominent with its non-party political campaign for human rights but – like most Zimbabwean organisations – it had been infiltrated by people with other aims. Now that ROHR was attracting the interest of potential donors a small group had seized the opportunity to unconstitutionally try to take it over. Four people have consequently been expelled.

Vigil supporters were glad to hear of the situation at first-hand from Ephraim. The Vigil founded ROHR and has financially supported it from the beginning. Here are some of the comments the Vigil has received following the press statement we released on the situation (

<http://www.zimvigil.co.uk/vigil-news/press-releases/325-zimbabwe-vigil-statement-on-rohr->

-).
- 'Clear hijacking. It happened to me but I stopped it. Typical work of CIO, causing confusion and havoc. Let's unite against such thugs.' Betty Makoni. Founder of Girl Child Network.
 - 'Well done to all concerned' – a Zimbabwean parliamentarian.
 - 'From my own observations and studies, I have noticed that the Mugabe regime targets NGOs involved in human rights activities for infiltration, destabilisation and harassment using terror laws like POSA and various others. While I don't mean to suggest the named four individuals may be CIO agents, I would not be surprised if they were found to be through a good vetting process.' Clifford Mashiri, Zimbabwean political commentator.
 - 'Oh dear – sorry to hear that. Zimbabweans and money . . . grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr' – a newspaper publisher.

Zimbabweans and money rang a bell given reports that the police in Harare are 'intensifying their probe' into the alleged misuse of government money for the Prime Minister's house (see: Tsvangirai under US\$1,5m probe – http://www.zimbabwe-situation.com/aug6_2011.html#Z1

). These allegations have been floating around for a while but their deadly seriousness only became clear to us when we realised that Tsvangirai's uncle Hebson Makuvishe is said to be involved. Vigil supporters remember how Makuvishe (now Ambassador to Germany) was responsible for the destruction of the MDC in the UK when he was Tsvangirai's high representative here. The MDC has yet to publish a report it commissioned on the alleged corruption in the MDC UK during his time here. Instead Tsvangirai has chosen to marginalise the diaspora.

Continuing on the theme of Zimbabweans and money, Vigil supporters were not surprised that:

1. Chitungwiza town council has spent US\$500,000 on cars for the town clerk and three other council officials.
2. Mugabe has given US\$50,000 to Wendall Parson, co-winner of this year's Big Brother Africa reality show who had already received loads of money from the competition. Mr Mugabe would have been better advised to donate this money to the starving millions in the horn of Africa. We have heard about the UN's appeal for going-on half a billion dollars for the annual Zimbabwe humanitarian aid necessary because of his misgovernance – but we have yet to hear how much Mugabe is giving to save the starving children on whose behalf he was speaking at the UN conference on youth a couple of weeks ago. (Check: Famine crisis: Africa's leaders postpone fundraising conference by two weeks – <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/somalia/8682144Famine-crisis-Africas-leaders-postpone-fundraising-conference-by-two-weeks.html>)

Other points

- One of our supporters Louisa Musaerenge said she had received the following threatening email apparently targeting Vigil supporters: ' Murikupe dza nguva muchimba ku London pasi peziso ra baba Mugabe kupusa chose ticha kubvumburisa one by one you want boiling oil over you heads your brain has bin frozen there come here we sort you out dogs of english man. They laugh you all the time this whities, you bin used to wipe ass come and agriculture here home is gud'. (For attention UK Border Agency.)
- We were glad to have with us Josephine Chari who has just been released from detention. She said how grateful she was for the Vigil's support when she

was threatened with deportation.

- There was a smaller attendance today because of travel problems. Vigil team member Fungayi Mabhunu spent most of the day trying to escape from the M25 motorway around London paralysed by a 30-mile tailback caused by an accident which closed both carriageways.

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

Please note: Vigil photos can only be downloaded from our Flickr website – they cannot be downloaded from the slideshow on the front page of the Zimvigil website.

FOR THE RECORD: 59 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.

- **ZBN News.** The Vigil management team wishes to make it clear that the Zimbabwe Vigil is not responsible for Zimbabwe Broadcasting Network News (ZBN News). We are happy that they attend our activities and provide television coverage but we have no control over them. All enquiries about ZBN News should be addressed to ZBN News.

- **The Zim Vigil band** (Farai Marema and Dumi Tutani) has launched its theme song 'Vigil Yedu (our Vigil)' to raise awareness through music. To download this single, visit: www.imusicafrica.com and to watch the video check: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QukqctWc3XE>

- **ROHR Manchester Meetings.** Saturday 13th August (committee meeting from 11 am – 1 pm, general meeting from 2 – 5 pm). Venue:

The Salvation Army Citadel, 71 Grosvenor Road,
Manchester
M13 9UB.

Contact

; Delina Tafadzwa Mutyambizi 07775313637, Chamunorwa Chihota
07799446404, Panyika Karimanzira 07551062161, Artwell Pfende 07886839353.

Future meetings: 10

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September, 8

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October, 12

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November, 10

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December. Same times / venue.

· **'Rituals'**. Tuesday 23rd August at 7 pm. Venue: Amnesty International UK, The Human Rights Action Centre, 17 - 25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA. This is a musical and inspirational journey through community-driven healing processes following traumatic and violent experiences in Zimbabwe. It is produced by author Stephen Chifunyise and director Daves Guzha, whose cast spent four nights in jail. They were acquitted in March in what has been described by the press as a landmark case in terms of freedom of expression and artistic creativity. Tickets from Amnesty at £5 can be booked via: http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?ID=1907

[://www.amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?ID=1907](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?ID=1907)

· Amnesty is hosting this production by the Zimbabwean theatre company Rooftop Promotions following its run at the Edinburgh fringe festival.

· **ROHR Manchester Vigil**. Saturday 27th August from 2 – 5 pm. Venue: Cathedral Gardens, Manchester City Centre (subject to change to Piccadilly Gardens).

Contact

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07799446404, Panyika Karimanzira 07551062161, Artwell Pfende 07886839353.

Future demonstrations: 24

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September, 29

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October, 26

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November, 31

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December. Same time and venue.

· **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 "Budiriro Trust" to Emily Chadburn, 15 Burners Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 0QA. All proceeds go to the Budiriro Trust which

provides bursaries to needy A Level students in Zimbabwe.