

No sooner did the Vigil speculate last week about a meeting between beleaguered Mugabe and American Ambassador Ray than confirmation was forthcoming.

‘Just finished a pleasant one-hour chat with President Mugabe’, Ray posted. He was ‘mentally alert and engaging’ and I wished him a good trip to the UN General Assembly. Ray added ‘no discussion of wikileaks, no rants’.

But Vigil supporters have an advance from the next engrossing batch of wikileaks: ‘Is there anyone I can trust?’ Mugabe asked the American Ambassador. ‘Is it true about Grace and Gono, about Moyo and Mujuru . . .’

We understand that Mugabe asked Ray for advice on Attorney-General Tomana’s plan to take the EU to court for their illegal sanctions which have plunged Zimbabwe into such a desperate situation that it is now 234 out of 237 in the world’s poverty ratings.

Ray said ‘You may have a small problem here. Mr Tomana argues that sanctions violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights’ provision that no one should be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property. But perhaps some of the people relieved of their farms and businesses might argue the same’.

But Mr Ray added that the President might still be entitled to be treated by the UK National Health Service on humanitarian grounds. And he might be entitled to a council palace.

Anyway those of us at the Vigil battling with our tarpaulin against the drenching rain didn’t have much to celebrate on the third anniversary of the signing of the GPA. There has been no progress towards implementing the GPA that we can detect – even the promised SADC contribution to activate the moribund JOMIC has failed to materialise.

The Zim Vigil band reflects our frustration with lack of progress in their latest postings of two new protest song videos (Shungurudza and Zimbabwe Blood Diamonds) on youtube (<http://Sh>

ungurudza.notlong.com

and

<http://blooddiamonds.notlong.com>

). Band members Farai Marema and Dumu Tutani have been interviewed by Zim Diaspora, check:

<http://zimdiaspora-zimvigilband.notlong.com>

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Other points

- Our condolences to Vigil regular Margret Tandi on the death of her sister in Zimbabwe this week.
- Thanks to Silethiwe Ncube for providing a new table cloth for the Vigil table.

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: 83 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. Please note that the official website of ROHR Zimbabwe is <http://www.rohrzimbabwe.org/>
- Any other website claiming to be the official website of ROHR in no way represents the views and opinions of ROHR.
- **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 Dumu 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://ourvigil.notlong.com>

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. To watch other Zim Vigil band protest songs, check:

<http://Shungurudza.notlong.com>

and

<http://blooddiamonds.notlong.com>

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· **ROHR Manchester Vigil.** Saturday 24th September from 2 – 5 pm. Venue: Cathedral Gardens, Manchester City Centre (subject to change to Piccadilly Gardens).

Contact

; Delina Tafadzwa Mutyambizi 07775313637, Chamunorwa Chihota 07799446404, Panyika Karimanzira 07551062161, Artwell Pfende 07886839353. Future demonstrations: 29th

October, 26

th

November, 31

st

December. Same time and venue.

· **'The Rain that Washes' – Zimbabwean theatre production.** Performances: Thursday 29th and

Friday 30

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September at 7.30 pm, Saturday 1

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October at 6 pm, Tuesday 4

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and Wednesday 5

th

October at 7.30 pm, Saturday 8

th

October at 6 pm. Venue: Studio Theatre, Chickenshed Theatre, Chase Side, Southgate, London N14 4PE. Tickets

£8 (£6). To book, call

020 8292 9222, email

bookings@chickenshed.org.uk

or book online at

www.chickenshed.org.uk

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Chickenshed is between Oakwood and Cockfosters tube stations, and on bus routes 298, 299, 307 and N91. Free parking is also available.

· **ROHR Manchester Meetings.** Saturday 8th October (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:

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November, 10

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December. Same times / venue.

- **Vigil Facebook page:** <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8157345519&ref=ts> .
- **Vigil Myspace page:** <http://www.myspace.com/zimbabwевigil> .
- **'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.