

Mugabe strikes at activists – Zimbabwe Vigil Diary: 11th June 2016

Written by Administrator

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<https://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwevigil/26997392294/sizes/m/>

As activists at the Vigil commemorated the fifteenth month since the abduction by state security agents in Harare of the human rights campaigner Itai Dzamara, we displayed a new poster – this one condemning the arrest on Wednesday of his brother Patson.

Last week Patson released a photograph of what looked like his brother with his hands tied behind his back and a bandage around his head. He told a news conference that he had been given inside information 'from within the evil establishment'.

Patson was arrested along with four other activists while taking part in a revived protest in Africa Unity Square originally started by Itai against Mugabe's misrule. Their lawyer, Obey Shava of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, said they had been charged with robbery and obstructing the course of justice. 'These are trumped up charges to instil fear and discourage people from occupying Africa Unity Square,' Shava said.

Ten more protestors were detained later in a clear move to close down the protest, which has been gathering increased support as the economy slips towards the cliff edge. They have all now been released on bail.

The Facebook page of Occupy Africa Unity Square was defiant, saying the protest would continue: 'We have been attacked, robbed, beaten, detained without charges, arrested on trumped-up charges, denied bail by charging outrageous amounts, smeared in the Herald. All of this for 10 days of activism. All this for demanding the Freedom hard-earned at Independence, and subsequently sold down the river'.

Meanwhile, youths in Bulawayo have started their own occupation outside City Hall.

The protest has aroused international interest. This week the Times of London ran stories about Zimbabwe on three consecutive days. On Monday the headline was ' Cash runs dry after Mugabe plunders banks' (<http://www.zimvigil.co.uk/vigil-news/campaign-news/78-cash-runs-dry-after-mugabe-plunders-banks>).

For details of how Mugabe has plundered the banks see an article by Eddie Cross MP (<http://nehandaradio.com/2016/06/11/they-have-done-it-again/>).

Other points

- Some newcomers to the Vigil were startled when a procession of naked cyclists rode past. We told them it was an annual event and assured them it had nothing to do with the Queen's 90th birthday marked today by a fly-past after the ceremonial Trooping the Colour.

- Our friends at the Swaziland Vigil confronted the Swaziland High Commissioner, Mrs Dumsile T Sukata, when she was driven away to attend Trooping the Colour. They

pushed a poster against a rear window of her car showing a picture of King Mswati III with the wording ‘Wanted for Human Rights Abuses’. She desperately tried to close the window blinds.

- On Tuesday 14th June the Vigil is presenting a petition to the Botswana High Commission in London calling on SADC to take action to avert meltdown in Zimbabwe. See ‘events and

notices' for details.

- On Friday we were alarmed to hear that Vigil supporter Emmaculate Tshuma was to be deported that day. She was in a Home Office van outside Heathrow airport. Kenya Airways' telephone lines were overloaded with calls telling them not to take Emmaculate back to

Zimbabwe. We are relieved to say that she was not sent home. ☐

- Thanks to the big group that arrived early to help set up: Alfredy Mukuvare, Benjamin Chigamba, Chipo Parirenyatwa, Ethel Siduna, Eletha Mpofu, Esther Munyira, Etines Kapiya, Euliter Mutami, Eva Sanyahokwe,

**Flemming Diza, Fungayi
Mabhunu, Isabell
Gwatidzo, Jean Kawara,
John Burke, Jonas
Makombera, Kevin
Gondo, Kidi Gotsi,
Mandifusa
Mushambadope, Mavis
Chisvo, Mduduzi
Ndlovu,
Michael Sirewu, Michelle
Makoni, Nancy Makurira,
Nomcebo Ngwenya,**

**Percy Dube, Phillip
Mahlahla, Praisego
Moyo, Rashiwe Bayisayi,
Roseline Mukucha,
Rosemary Maponga,
Sihle Sibanda, Vusumuzi
Ncube and Zenzo Siziba.
Thanks to Roseline,
Esthere and Etines for
looking after the front
table and to Phillip,
Benjamin, Alfredy, Kevin
and Mduduzi for putting**

**up the high banners and
the tarpaulin in the rain.
Thanks to Chipo and
Isabell for looking after
the lucky dip to fundraise
for ROHR Central
London branch. Chipo
made a beautiful cake to
commemorate the
Queen's 90
th
birthday which was
enjoyed by all.**

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

. Please note: Vigil photos can only be downloaded from our Flickr website.

For videos of Vigils and other events, check the ROHR facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/www.rohrzimbabwe.org/videos?fref=photo>

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FOR THE RECORD: 44 signed the register.

EVENTS AND NOTICES:

- **Presentation of Vigil petition to Botswana High Commission. Tuesday 14th June at 11 am.**

Venue: Botswana High Commission, 6 Stratford Place, London W1C 1AY. Nearest station: Bond Street. The petition asks President Ian Khama as Chair of SADC to ask the region to intervene in Zimbabwe. We are gathering outside the High Commission at 10.30 am.

· **ROHR Reading branch general meeting** .

Saturday 18

th

June from 11.30 am – 1.30 pm.

Venue: Strand Continental

Hotel (first floor lounge), 143

Strand, London WC2R 1JA. For

directions see below. Contact:

Nicodimus Muganhu

07877386792, Joshua Kahari

07877246251, Charles

Mararirakwenda 07964731721,

Shylette Chipangura

07828929806.

· **ROHR Central London
branch meeting.**

Saturday 18

th

June from 12 noon – 2 pm.

**Venue: The Theodore Bullfrog,
26-30 John Adam Street,**

London WC2N 6HL. Contact:

Fungayi Mabhunu

07907089899, Mavis Chisvo

07944612944.

· **ROHR Leicester branch**

meeting . Saturday 18th
June from 2 – 4 pm. Venue: the
Salvation Army, Kildare Street,
Leicester LE1 3FY. Directions:
Opposite Peking Chinese
Restaurant, City Centre.
Contact: Enniah Dube
07403439707, Yvonne
Makombe 07453909247 and
Moline Nyabonda
07961250525.

· **The Restoration of**

Human Rights in Zimbabwe (ROHR) is the Vigil's partner organization based in Zimbabwe. ROHR grew out of the need for the Vigil to have an organization 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/](http://www.rohrzimbabwe.org/)

. Any other website claiming to be the official website of ROHR in no way represents us.

· **Swaziland Vigil. Saturday
25th**

June from 10 am to 1 pm
outside the Swaziland High
Commission, 20 Buckingham
Gate, London SW1E 6LB.

· **MDC Youth Family Fun Day.** Saturday 25th June from 2 pm until late. Venue: Billing Aquadrome, Crow Lane, Northampton NN3 9DA. For more information contact: Sharon Moyo (07877224113) Organising Secretary and Vusumuzi Ncube (07758937280) Youth Chair.

· **ROHR National Executive meeting** .

Saturday 2

nd

July from 11 am to 1.30 pm.

Venue: Strand Continental

Hotel (first floor lounge), 143

**Strand, London WC2R 1JA. For
directions see below.**

· **Zimbabwe Action Forum
(ZAF). Saturday 2nd July
from 6.15 pm. Venue: Strand**

Continental Hotel (first floor lounge), 143 Strand, London WC2R 1JA. From the Vigil it's about a 10 minute walk, in the direction away from Trafalgar Square. The Strand Continental is situated on the south side of the Strand between Somerset House and the turn off onto Waterloo Bridge. The entrance is marked by a sign at street level. It's between a newsagent and a shop. Nearest underground: Temple (District and Circle lines) and Holborn.

- **Zimbabwe Action Forum (ZAF)** meets regularly after the Vigil to discuss ways to help those back in Zimbabwe to fight oppression and achieve true democracy.

- **Protest at Zimbabwe Conference 2016 ‘Rebooting and Rebuilding’.** Tuesda
y 5 th

July from 8 am onwards.

Venue: outside DLA Piper UK LLP, 3 Noble Street, London EC2V 7EE. More information as our plans firm up. For more information:

<http://africa-confidential-meetings.com/>

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▪ **Monthly Itai Dzamara protest** Saturday 9th July
from 2 – 6 pm outside the

Zimbabwe Embassy in London.
The protest is to mark sixteen months since Dzamara's abduction by intelligence agents.

· **Zimbabwe Yes We Can Movement** holds meetings in London as the political face of ROHR and the Vigil.

▪ **Zimbabwe Vigil Highlights 2015** can be viewed on this link:

<http://www.zimvigil.co.uk/vigil-news/campaign-news/746-zimbabwe-vigil-highlights-2015>

▪ Links to previous years' highlights are listed on 2015 Highlights page.

▪ **Facebook pages:**

Vigil: <https://www.facebook.com/zimbabwевigil>

ZAF: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Zimbabwe-Action-Forum-ZAF/490257051027515>

ROHR: <https://www.facebook.com/ROHR-Zimbabwe-Restoration-of-Human-Rights-301811392835>

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