

'Africa demands western aid for Mugabe to spend at Harrods'. This is the essence of the message from the SADC summit in Kinshasa this week – and the message we will be driving home at the Zimbabwe Vigil in London.

To us at the Vigil the SADC outcome came as no surprise; as readers of this diary will know we have never had any faith in this mafia.

Today we relaunched our petition challenging SADC: 'A Petition to European Union Governments: We record our dismay at the failure of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to help the desperate people of Zimbabwe at their time of trial.'

We urge the UK government and the European Union in general to suspend government aid to SADC countries until they abide by their joint commitment to uphold human rights in the region. We suggest that the money should instead be used to feed the starving in Zimbabwe.'

This petition was initiated two years ago and a first tranche of many thousands of signatures was submitted to the EU on our 6th anniversary last year. We suspended it when the 'unity government' was established to give SADC an opportunity to meet its obligations to Zimbabwe following the Global Political Agreement; a waste of time, of course.

The Vigil plans to present the petition again with thousands more signatures to an EU representative at the Vigil on 10th October when we will be marking our 7th anniversary of campaigning outside Zimbabwe House for human rights.

On that day we will have Mugabe and 'first shopper' Grace (or actors impersonating them) photographed outside Harrods and subsequently taking their newly-bought handbags and heels to the Embassy. SADC High Commissioners in London will be invited to witness the shopping

Zimbabwe Vigil Diary – 12th September 2009

Written by Administrator

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expedition and kiss the shoes and stick their hands into the bags.

On a lovely late summer day, bright and warm, the Vigil gave a thunderous answer to SADC 'To save Zimbabwe, Mugabe must go'.

Some other points:

1. The Vigil's congratulations to Governor Gono on taking occupation of his 112 room Harare mansion with its 3 helipads. Amazing what they pay civil servants in Zimbabwe

2. Our views on SADC echo those of Cathy Buckle and Tanonoka Whande (http://www1.zimbabwe-situation.com/sep13_2009.html#Z14)

, <http://www.swradioafrica.com/pages/heart100909.htm>

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3. We were glad to see Cloudy Muhamba. He had been coming to the Vigil and suddenly disappeared. We later heard he had been imprisoned for working illegally.

4. The Vigil is often asked to support this or that cause. We want to state here again that our mission is to promote human rights in Zimbabwe and we cannot be deflected from this.

5. Following last week's diary in which we mentioned being given a wad of Zimbabwean 100 trillion dollar notes we have had a request from The Zimbabwean newspaper to collect as many as we can for them to use for promotional purposes. So we have stopped selling them and if anyone can give us more the Zimbabwean will use them to good effect.

6. Thanks to Phakama Simozo and Priscilla Kwembeya who were first at the Vigil to set up. They helped throughout and were there at the end to help clear up. The Vigil is dependent on this type of support to keep going.

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

FOR THE RECORD: 127 signed the register.

EVENTS AND NOTICES:

· **ROHR (Anniversary) National Fundraising Party.** Saturday 26th September from 12 noon to late. Venue: The Portland Pavilion, 241 Portland Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B17 8LS. Admission: £10 (includes food). Contacts: V J Mujeye 07534 034 594, Abigail Nzimba 07838 073 111, Diane Mutendereki 07502 478 591. For information on directions: 0121 434 5130. ROHR is looking for male and female models with their own African clothing for a fashion show at this fundraiser.

All ages and sizes welcome. Those interested please contact: Pamela Dunduru 07553253639, Diana Mtendereki 07502478591, Pauline Makuwere 07533332306, Martha Jiya 07727016098, Abigail Nzimba 07838073111 or Paradzai Mapfumo 07915926323-07932216070. Event poster: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwewigil/3907390469/sizes/o/>

· **Zimbabwe Worship Service.** Sunday 27th September from 10.30 – 12.00 followed by Zimbabwean food from 12 – 3 pm. Venue: Elim Christian Centre, Dews Road, Salisbury SP2 7SN. Zimbabwean speaker. Contact: Adrian Smale, 01722 770024, adriansmale@virginmedia.com, www.elimsalisbury.org.uk

· **Zimbabwe Vigil – 7th Anniversary.** Saturday 10th October at 6.30 pm. The Vigil started on 12th October 2002 and we are marking this anniversary on the nearest Saturday to that date.

There will be a social gathering after the Vigil, downstairs at the Bell and Compass, 9-11 Villiers Street, London WC2N 6NA

, next to Charing Cross Station at the corner of
Villiers Street
and
John Adam Street

· **ROHR West Bromwich general meeting.** Saturday 31st October from 1.30 – 5.30 pm.
Venue: St Peters Church Hall, Whitehall
Road, West Bromwich B70 0HF. ROHR Executive and a well known lawyer present. Contact
Pamela Dunduru 07958386718, Diana Mtendereki 07768682961, Peter Nkomo 07817096594
or P Mapfumo 07915926323 / 0793221607

· **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:
Finsbury
Park

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

· **From Liberator to Dictator by Mike Auret.** This is a personal account of the unravelling
of Zimbabwe, written by an insider who was
prepared to keep faith with Robert Mugabe until it was almost too late. Michael Auret served for
many years on Zimbabwe's
respected Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace, which worked tirelessly to defend human
rights in that country. In this memoir, he traces his involvement in the politics of his country,
from his days as an opposition MP in Ian Smith's
Rhodesia
to his involvement with the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and his election as MP for
Harare Central in the brutal election of 2000.

http://www.newafricabooks.co.za/books_detail.asp?ID=499

· **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. Further information: <http://www.citizenforsanctuary.org.uk/pages/Strategic.html>
or contact:
zimbabweinternship@cof.org.uk