

Following our appeal to President Zuma to arrange early elections in Zimbabwe, the Vigil is to launch a petition to the UN Security Council calling on it to ensure that the elections are not stolen again.

The petition reads: 'We call on the Security Council to ensure that the next elections in Zimbabwe are free and fair. We look to the United Nations to supervise the electoral process and the handover of power to a new government and believe peace-keeping troops will need to be in place before, during and after the polling.'

As we explained to President Zuma, Vigil supporters believe that the situation in Zimbabwe can only worsen the longer elections are delayed. Our argument is that:

1. After a year of the interim unitary government it is clear that it is making no progress. If anything it is going backwards. The Mugabe regime has shown that it is determined to cling to power and that it will block real change, such as a free media and independent judiciary, so new elections are the only way forward.

2. The situation will steadily deteriorate as long as Mugabe and his gang remain in power. Finance Minister Tendai Biti has admitted his hoped-for foreign budgetary aid and external investment will not be realised and, on top of that, the national exchequer has seen zero benefit from the exploitation of the Chiadzwa diamond fields.

3. The Vigil rejects the argument that lifting or suspending targeted sanctions will make the Mugabe regime more conciliatory. On the contrary, we are convinced that appeasing the regime will only encourage it in its intransigence. We believe that the Mugabe gang fears that any change will lead to their prosecution for human rights and other abuses and that it is up to South Africa

– as their supporter over the years – to make arrangements for the future of these criminals.

4. In particular, Vigil supporters reject the notion that sanctions should be lifted because they are misrepresented by the Mugabe regime as sanctions against Zimbabweans in general. We believe the proper answer to Mugabe's propaganda is to patiently convey the truth to Zimbabweans and deluded Mugabe sym

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Africa

and elsewhere. The Allies in the Second World War did not defeat national socialism, Italian fascism and Japanese militarism by bowing to their odious propaganda.

Some other points:

· We were glad to be joined again after a long absence by Ben Buckland nam Cameron

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Migeri 07956083758. Future demonstrations all on Saturdays: 3rd

and 17th

April, 8th

and 22nd

May. Same venue and time.

· **ROHR Thurrock & Basildon launch meeting**, Saturday 27th March from 1.30 – 6 pm.
Venue: Grays Parish Hall, West Street, Grays RM17 6LL. Contact: Tobokwa Malikongwa
07533660621, Billy Machekano 07765459538,

Paradzai Mapfumo

07932216070 / 07915926323

· **Southwark Cathedral's hymn singing in solidarity with worshippers in Harare.** Sunday 4th

April (Easter Day). Time tba. Venue: outside the
Zimbabwe
Embassy.

They are singing in solidarity
with worshippers who are going to be locked out of the Anglican Cathedral in
Harare
on Easter Day.

· **Swaziland Vigil.** Saturdays from 10 am – 1 pm. Venue: Swazi High Commission, 20
Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB. Please
support our Swazi friends. Nearest stations: St James's Park and Victoria. For more information
check:

www.swazilandvigil.co.uk

· **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).

· **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. For information: <http://www.citizensforsanctuary.org.uk/pages/Strategic.html>

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or contact:

zimbabweinternship@cof.org.uk

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· **For Motherland ENT's videos** of the Vigil on 30/01/2010: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oe14veVo0H0> and

the Vigil on
26/12/2009

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdPsBsief0s>

and

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nX6sv2T9gwk&feature=related>

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