

Vigil supporters were sceptical about the decision by the Kimberley Process at their meeting in Russia to allow the fraudulent Zimbabwean mining authorities to sell diamonds from Chiadzwa. The fact that Zimbabwe is blessed with such mineral wealth is a cause for rejoicing but we have no faith that Mines Minister Obert Mpofu will honour any agreement.

The bloated minister has proved himself a liar and a cheat.

The sale of diamonds will further strengthen Zanu PF gangsters such as Mpofu and make them even more resistant to democratic change. Supporters thought that diamonds were likely to finance Zanu PF youth violence in the coming elections.

Some of the proceeds will no doubt trickle into the national exchequer – not even Zanu PF could continue to steal everything. But we suspect most will be siphoned off to foreign bank accounts. This has been the experience of Angola, DRC and Nigeria, for instance, where the impoverished masses have received little benefit from their countries' rich resources.

We demand that the Kimberley Process holds Zimbabwe to its undertaking to end abuses at Chiadzwa. It must insist on an independent commission to oversee the industry. But we have little hope.

A good crowd gathered at the Vigil on a pleasantly cool day – a relief from the blistering heat we have been experiencing in recent weeks. We were glad to be joined by the Leicester mini-bus with 18 people on board.

They are now coming every week.

Other points

· Today we handed out two of the three prizes in our World Cup Draw. Fundai Chiname who drew Germany's number won £20. Dorothy Rwambiwa who drew the Netherlands won £30. The winner who drew Spain

was not with us and will be awarded £50 next week. In total we sold 100 tickets at £1 each.

- A long-term supporter reports that he had a drink in Brixton recently with the father of a prominent Zanu PF gangster. The father complained that his bank in the UK was making enquiries about a deposit of £100,000 into his account made by his son. We are passing the information on to those who can pursue this matter.

- We reported recently (3rd July) that we had to find financial resources to help a supporter in Zimbabwe who was running into difficulties. We are happy to say that the supporter is now safe.

- Deputy Prime Minister Khupe said in an interview at the end of her recent visit to the UK (<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE669063.CH.2400>

)
that she is very confident of a large-scale international financial package soon for infrastructural development in Zimbabwe

- What planet is she living on? The European Union and other donors have made it clear that there will be no such aid until the GPA has been implemented. The Vigil makes a point of constantly reminding them of our petition: 'We welcome the

UK

's humanitarian assistance to

Zimbabwe

but call on the

UK

government to withhold development aid until it is confident that the money will benefit the people rather than the corrupt Mugabe regime.'

- Morgan Tsvangirai seems to have the same problem in seeing reality. Speaking at the launch of a report on child malnutrition, he waffled: 'Malnutrition is not a simple problem that can be addressed effectively through narrow technical solutions as it results from the complex interplay of social, political, cultural and economic factors' . . . like a shortage of food prevented from reaching the vulnerable by Zanu PF people unless they support the party!

(<http://www.swradioafrica.com/news120710/food120710.htm>

).

The Vigil notes much recent publicity given to an announcement that a third of children under 5 are chronically malnourished. Our current leaflet which we have been distributing to passers-by for the last seven months notes 'the UN says (December 2009) that a third of children under 5 are chronically malnourished'. We suppose the significance is that despite another seven months of the interim government there has been no improvement in the malnutrition statistics.

- Thanks to Gladys Helen Meck for looking after the merchandise today.

For latest Vigil pictures check: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwewigil/> . For the latest ZimVigil TV programme check the link at the top of the home page of our website.

For earlier ZimVigil TV programmes check:

<http://www.zbnnews.com/home/firingline>

FOR THE RECORD: 183 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.

· **ROHR Liverpool Vigil.** Saturday 24th July from 2 – 5 pm. Venue: Church Street (Outside Primark), Liverpool City Centre. For details please contact: Anywhere Mungoyo 07939913688, Trywell Migeri 07956083758, Panyika Karimanzira 07551062161. Future demonstrations: 31st

July, 7th

and 21st

August, 4th

September. Same time and venue.

· **ROHR Coventry general meeting.** Saturday 24th July from 1 – 5 pm. Venue: 90a Paynes Lane, Coventry CV1 5JH

· ROHR National Executive and a well known lawyer present. Contact V.J Mujeye 07534034594, Nash Sibanda 07886660392, Pauline Makuwere 07575265710, P. Mapfumo 07932216070/07915926323 or P Chibanguza 07908406069.

· **ROHR West Bromwich general meeting.** Saturday 31st July 2010 from 1 – 5 pm. Venue: St Peters Church Hall, Whitehall Road, West Bromwich B70 0HF. Contact: Pamela Dunduru 07958386718,

Zimbabwe Vigil Diary – 17th July 2010

Written by Administrator

Sunday, 18 July 2010 17:08 - Last Updated Sunday, 18 July 2010 17:21

Peter

Nkomo

07817096594, Diana Mtendereki 07837682108, P Chibanguza 07908406069 or P Mapfumo 07915926323.

Supporter Adrian Smale who will be cycling **85 miles from Salisbury to the Vigil to raise money for Zimbabwean orphans on 24**

th

July.

If you want to sponsor him contact him on

adriansmale@virginmedia.com

or tel: 07946 128204.

• **ROHR Hayes general meeting.** Saturday 31st July from 1 – 5 pm. Venue: Brookside Community Centre, Hayes

,
UB4 0PE

. The raffle for the computer, DVD player, printer and Samsung mobile phone will be drawn – tickets are still on sale. ROHR Executive present. Contact Roda Kulhengisa 07958205544, Snodia Chihowa 07852921523, Charity Nyamuzuwe 07898765091 or P Mapfumo 0791592623 / 07932216070.

• **ROHR Stoke-On-Trent general meeting.** Saturday 7th August from 2 – 5 pm. Venue: YMCA Edinburgh House. Harding Road

Stoke-On-Trent
ST1 3AE

. Substantive committee to be elected. Executive members present. Contact: Pauline Mutema on

07850462301

, David Mugwira

07866873493,

Maxwell

Dube

07533349840, P Chibanguza 07908406069 or P Mapfumo 07915926323/07932216070

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