

A busy week for the Vigil – Zimbabwe Vigil Diary: 2nd July 2011

Written by Administrator

Sunday, 03 July 2011 15:26 - Last Updated Sunday, 03 July 2011 15:26

A busy week for the Vigil culminated in a visit by the Information and Publicity Officer of the new Zimbabwe 'Yes We Can' movement, Arnold Magwanyata. He told Vigil supporters that the movement wanted to encourage Zimbabweans in the diaspora to join the struggle to overcome the misrule of Zimbabwe. He added that the people who become involved in this movement would shape what it became.

Vigil co-ordinator Dumit Tutani, the Vigil's representative to the new movement, reported on a meeting it held in Manchester on 25th June. He said it had been attended by about 70 people from all over the UK. Dumit said that one strong message coming from the meeting was a determination to empower women. He said the meeting was addressed by Betty Makoni of the Girl Child Network, who gained a lot of support for the abolition of some Zimbabwean customs disempowering women such as inheritance / lobola etc. The movement is having a meeting in Leicester next Saturday.

Back to our busy week. On Monday 27th June Vigil supporters provided the backbone for a protest by Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) against violence in Zimbabwe. The Embassy refused to accept 1,300 cards ACTSA had collected calling for an end to the violence. The Embassy (as usual!) was closed so we stuck one of the cards under the door signed 'Zimbabwe Vigil' and listing our address as 'outside the Zimbabwe Embassy'. For further details see ACTSA's press release:

<http://www.actsa.org/newsroom/2011/06/actsa-calls-for-an-end-to-violence-in-zimbabwe-on-third-anniversary-of-presidential-run-off/>

Thanks to the Vigil supporters who attended the protest: Rashiwe Bayisayi, Hildah Chavi, Angeline Chipoyera, Bernard Hukwa, Kelvin Kamupira, Dhumisani Karakadzai, Tinah Mahubaba, Modesta Majani, Abigail Makunde, Susan Manyanya, Farai Marema, Petronilla Masango, Maureen Mashiri, Cephas Maswoswa, Wilbert Matambanadzo, Eunice Mhlanga, Khuluza Mlotshwa, Nqobizitha Moyo, Liona Moyo, Regina Mugariri, Mercy Muranganwa, Louisa Musaerenge, Mary Muteyerwa, Patson Muzuwa, Francesca Toft, Sue Toft, Dumit Tutani, Lorraine Zakeyo, Ernest Zvoma.

Many of those people came fresh from a church service in London for Zimbabwean torture victims on Sunday, the UN international day in support of victims of torture. See the report on our website (<http://www.zimvigil.co.uk/the-vigil-diary/316-service-in-support-of-zimbabwean-vic>

[tims-of-torture-26th-june-2011](#)

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Some of them told us of the harrowing scenes in the film 'Hear Us' which they had seen the previous night at the Frontline Club in West London. The film showed the injustices and brutality meted out to Zimbabwean women and was presented by Kudakwashe Chitsike of the Research and Advocacy Unit (Zimbabwe) who also fielded a question and answer session.

Other points

- Following on from our diary last week in which we wrote about criticism of the Vigil from the Home Office we have sent the following letter to Theresa May, the Home Secretary. 'A solicitor acting for one of our supporters asked for our comment on a letter from the Home Office which maligned the Zimbabwe Vigil. You will see further information in our diary of 25th

June 2011.

The Zimbabwe Vigil has been demonstrating every week outside the Zimbabwe Embassy since October 2002. We are frequently criticized by Mugabe supporters but were surprised to be attacked by the Home Office. We totally reject the implications and challenge the Home Office to substantiate this malicious slur.'

- The Vigil was pleased to hear that our Swazi supporter Thobile Gwebu has been granted leave to remain in the UK. Thobile organized a Vigil outside the Swazi Embassy in London. A Home Office official said it had taken into account her activities.

- For a transcript of Vigil Co-ordinator Rose Benton's interview on SW Radio Africa, check: <http://www.swradioafrica.com/pages/qt-rosebenton290611.htm>

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 latest ZimVigil TV programme check

<http://www.zimvigil.tv.com/>

FOR THE RECORD: 63 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

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practical way. ROHR in the UK actively fundraises through membership subscriptions, events, sales etc to support the activities of ROHR in Zimbabwe.

- **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 Dumi 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QukqctWc3XE>

- **ROHR Liverpool general meeting.** Saturday 9th July from 1.30 – 4.30 pm. Venue: Kensington Methodist Church, 294 Kensington, Liverpool L7 2RN. ROHR national executive members present. A well-known immigration lawyer available to talk about the new country guidance ruling. Contact Anywhere Mungoyo 07939913688, Netsai Karota 07767483180, Panyika Anselm Karimanzira 07538534375, Sheilla Mironga 07578541227 or P Mapfumo 07915926323/07932216070.

- **ROHR Yorkshire general meeting.** Saturday 16th July from 2 – 6 pm. Venue: **Dock Green Inn, Ashley Rd, Leeds LS9 7AB. In attendance ROHR National Chairperson Mr A Mungoyo and National Secretary Mr C Chibumbu. Contact:**

Chinofunga Ndogo 07877993826, Prosper Mudamvanji (Branch Chair) 07897594874, Wonder Mubaiwa 07958758568, Knowledge Kutekwa 07400540732 or R Chifungo (Co-ordinator) 07795070609.

- **ROHR North East (Newcastle) general meeting.** Saturday 23th July from 12 – 3.30 pm. Venue: Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 9SJ. 3 mins walk from the Gateshead Interchange. Contact: Susan Ndlovu 07767024586, Sharon Masocha 07751610298, Collin Matongo 07775987006, Rugare Chifungo (Coordinator) 07795070609.

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

- **Vigil Myspace page:** <http://www.myspace.com/zimbabwewigil> .

- **'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.

- **Workshops aiming to engage African men on HIV testing and other sexual health issue** s. Organised by the Terrence Higgins Trust (www.tht.org.uk). Please contact the co-ordinator Takudzwa Mukiwa (

takudzwa.mukiwa@tht.org.uk)

if you are interested in taking part.