

The Vigil notes Mugabe's restatement of his attitude towards the 'evil' donors who are trying to educate our children, maintain some semblance of a health service and feed those starving in the rural areas.

Speaking at the UN, Mugabe told the General Assembly that, for daring to empower her people, Zimbabwe had become a victim of 'the evil machinations of Western countries, namely the United States of America and the European Union', who continue to apply unilateral and illegal sanctions as a tool to achieve regime change. He added: 'No good can come from undermining our economy or depriving our citizens of the necessities of life'. (See: Mugabe denounces evil US, EU – http://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/zimsit_w_mugabe-denounces-evil-us-eu/).

Mugabe's tired rant exposed the hypocrisy of Zimbabwe's Deputy Foreign Minister Christopher Mutsvangwa who, while claiming to be an intimate of Mugabe, voiced a very different view of the West when he spoke at the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House in London on 16th September.

While the Vigil was outside the building protesting at his visit, a Herald reporter was inside and here is the gist of what he reported:

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The City of London must 'pay heed to the tantalising opportunities in SADC' and mobilise international capital to invest in a region with 'a solid foundation of democracy, peace and political stability'. Throwing open his arms, Mutsvangwa went on: 'why not do once again what Cecil Rhodes did in 1890 when he brought capital and business to Zimbabwe'.

'Indigenisation and land reform should be no barriers to investing in Zimbabwe', he said. To make his point crystal clear Mutsvangwa explained: 'any gripes on indigenisation and rule of law should of necessity be applicable in a universal foreign direct investment eco system'. Presumably the Herald knows what this means.

Waxing lyrical, the Deputy Foreign Minister asserted: 'the still under-farmed African grasslands are highly fertile and can furnish food security to the emerging middle class of China, India and other emergent economy populous regions'. The Vigil supposes this means from the abundance remaining after filling Zimbabwe's empty bellies . . . (see: <http://www.herald.co.zw/zimbabwes-agenda-for-sadc-regional-international-priorities/>).

Who to believe then: Mutsvangwa or Mugabe? At a time when an IMF team is in Zimbabwe saying that, because of our unpaid debt, it can't lend us more money and will instead ask 'the donors' to help out, Zimbabwe's foreign policy is hypocritical if not schizophrenic.

The Vigil was interested to see the response to our last diary in which we repeated the charges

made against Mutsvangwa of organising violence in the 2008 elections. In a comment he posted he said the Vigil is heartless (or perhaps it was a spelling mistake): *'All this is demonic slander totally devoid of even an aorta (sic) of evidence. I will sue you for this even in an English court. I shall want to see the colour of your evidence. I never was in charge of the police in zimbabwe. I have never traded in diamonds serve as chairman of mmcz. The names of political victims you litter are a fiction to my mind. You motimotivated by unbridled evil. I will sure expose you*

.' (See:

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http://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/zimsit_w_news/

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The Vigil trusts that the EU will pay attention to Mugabe's UN speech rather than that of fawning Mutsvangwa when it meets in November to consider removing the remaining targeted measures. As for Mr Mutsvangwa, our solicitors would be happy to hear from him. They are Sue, Gabbit and Runne, c/o Private Eye, London. Mr Mutsvangwa would be advised not to instruct the Zimbabwean government lawyers whose case in the EU against the 'illegal' sanctions has now been thrown out.

Other points

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The Vigil was followed by a lively meeting of the Zimbabwe Action Forum at which we resolved to step up our picketing of any dodgy Zanu PF representatives visiting London to tout for money. If anyone hears of likely candidates coming please let us know as early as possible: co-ordinator@zimvigil.co.uk

. The meeting welcomed news that the MDC renewal team had followed the MDC T in promising not to take part in parliamentary elections unless reforms are made. The disunity among the opposition parties prompted a discussion of the need for a diaspora initiative and suggestions were invited to be discussed at future meetings.

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Thanks to Patricia Masamba, Fungisai Mupandira, Michael Mupambireyi and Mavis Chisvo for arriving early to help set up.

For latest Vigil pictures check: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwewigil/> . Please note: Vigil photos can only be downloaded from our Flickr website.

FOR THE RECORD: 17 signed the register.

EVENTS AND NOTICES:

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ROHR 2014 National Conference. Saturday 4th October from 11 am till late. Venue: Malaika House, 81 George Street, Lozells, Birmingham B19 1NS. Restoration of Human Rights International invites its members, supporters, partners and the general public to come and celebrate. Contact: Branch Chairperson – Thandiwe Gwarumba 07503 512308, Publicity Department – Tino Mashonganyika 07463 272078, Fundraising – Gladys Muduve 07956 430115, Secretary – Catherine Muchabayiwa, 07529 556254, Organizing Secretary – Jane Mary Mapfumo 07412 310429.

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Next Swaziland Vigil. Saturday 4th October from 10 am to 1 pm outside the Swaziland High Commission, 20 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB.

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'Educating the Youth in Zimbabwe – Building for a Better Future'. Wednesday 8th October at 6.30 pm

Venue:

Free Word Centre

, 60 Farringdon Road, EC1R 3GA (0207 3242570).

The Budiro Trust p

resents a talk by David Coltart, former Zimbabwean

Minister of Education w

ith refreshments and discussion with David Coltart and members of the Trust. Entry free but please register at:

www.freewordcentre.com/events/detail/a-talk-by-david-coltart

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Zimbabwe Vigil's Twelfth Anniversary. Saturday 11th October.

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Zimbabwe Action Forum (ZAF). Saturday 11th October from 6.15 pm. This forum will be marking the 12th anniversary of the Vigil.

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 Pizza Express. Nearest underground: Temple (District and Circle lines) and Holborn.

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ROHR Central London Branch general meeting. Saturday 18th October from 12 noon.

Venue: The Theodore Bullfrog, 26-30 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HL.

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Zimbabwe Yes We Can meeting. Saturday 25th October at 12 noon. Venue: The Theodore

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Bullfrog, 26-30 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HL.

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'Hope for Zimbabwe'. Tuesday 4th November from 7 – 9 pm. Venue: the Royal Geographical Society, London. Hosted by the Mike Campbell Foundation with Ben Freeth, MBE, Christina Lamb, OBE, Dame Linda Dobbs (Chair). Tickets: £15. For more information, check:

<http://www.mikecampbellfoundation.com/page/events-2014>

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Zimbabwe Vigil Highlights 2013 can be viewed on this link: <http://www.zimvigil.co.uk/vigil-news/campaign-news/560-vigil-highlights-2013>

. Links to previous years' highlights are listed on 2013 Highlights page.

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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/>

. Any other website claiming to be the official website of ROHR in no way represents the views and opinions of ROHR.

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

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The Zimbabwe Action Forum (ZAF) meets twice a month after the Vigil to discuss ways to help those back in Zimbabwe to fight oppression and achieve true democracy

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Facebook pages:

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

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

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