

Mugabe strikes at activists – Zimbabwe Vigil Diary: 11th June 2016

Written by Administrator
Sunday, 12 June 2016 14:34 -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwevigil/26997392294/sizes/m/>

As activists at the Vigil commemorated the fifteenth month since the abduction by state security agents in Harare of the human rights campaigner Itai Dzamara, we displayed a new poster – this one condemning the arrest on Wednesday of his brother Patson.

Last week Patson released a photograph of what looked like his brother with his hands tied behind his back and a bandage around his head. He told a news conference that he had been given inside information ‘from within the evil establishment’.

Patson was arrested along with four other activists while taking part in a revived protest in Africa Unity Square originally started by Itai against Mugabe’s misrule. Their lawyer, Obey Shava of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, said they had been charged with robbery and obstructing the course of justice. ‘These are trumped up charges to instil fear and discourage people from occupying Africa Unity Square,’ Shava said.

Ten more protestors were detained later in a clear move to close down the protest, which has been gathering increased support as the economy slips towards the cliff edge. They have all now been released on bail.

The Facebook page of Occupy Africa Unity Square was defiant, saying the protest would continue: 'We have been attacked, robbed, beaten, detained without charges, arrested on trumped-up charges, denied bail by charging outrageous amounts, smeared in the Herald. All of this for 10 days of activism. All this for demanding the Freedom hard-earned at Independence, and subsequently sold down the river'.
Meanwhile, youths in Bulawayo have started their own occupation outside City Hall.

The protest has aroused international interest. This week the Times of London ran stories about Zimbabwe on three consecutive days. On Monday the headline was ' Cash runs dry after Mugabe plunders banks' (see: <http://www.zimvigil.co.uk/vigil-news/campaign-news/788-cash-runs-dry-after-mugabe-plunders-banks>). For details of how Mugabe has plundered the banks see an article by Eddie Cross MP (<http://nehandaradio.com/2016/06/11/they-have-done-it-again/>).

Other points

. Some newcomers to the Vigil were startled when a

procession of naked cyclists rode past. We told them it was an annual event and assured them it had nothing to do with the Queen's 90th

birthday marked today by a fly-past after the ceremonial Trooping the Colour.

• Our friends at the Swaziland Vigil confronted the Swaziland High Commissioner, Mrs Dumsile T Sukata, when

she was driven away to attend Trooping the Colour. They pushed a poster against a rear window of her car showing a picture of King Mswati III with the wording ‘Wanted for Human Rights Abuses’. She desperately tried to close the window blinds.

· □ □ □ □ □ □ On Tuesday

14th June the Vigil is presenting a petition to the Botswana High Commission in London calling on SADC to take action to avert meltdown in Zimbabwe. See ‘events and notices’ for details.

On Friday we were alarmed to hear that Vigil supporter Emmaculate Tshuma was to be deported that day. She was in a Home Office van outside Heathrow airport.

Kenya Airways' telephone lines were overloaded with calls telling them not to take Emmaculate back to Zimbabwe. We are relieved to say that she was not sent home.

• □ □ □ □ □ □ **Thanks**
to the big group
that arrived early
to help set up:
Alfredy
Mukuvare,
Benjamin
Chigamba, Chipo
Parirenyatwa,

**Ethel Siduna,
Eletha Mpofu,
Esther Munyira,
Etines Kapiya,
Euliter Mutami,
Eva Sanyahokwe,
Flemming Diza,
Fungayi
Mabhunu, Isabell**

**Gwatidzo, Jean
Kawara, John
Burke, Jonas
Makombera,
Kevin Gondo,
Kidi Gotsi,
Mandifusa
Mushambadope,
Mavis Chisvo,**

**Mduduzi Ndlovu,
Michael Sirewu,
Michelle Makoni,
Nancy Makurira,
Nomcebo
Ngwenya, Percy
Dube, Phillip
Mahlahla,
Praisego Moyo,**

**Rashiwe
Bayisayi,
Roseline
Mukucha,
Rosemary
Maponga, Sihle
Sibanda,
Vusumuzi Ncube
and Zenzo Siziba.**

**Thanks to
Roseline, Esthere
and Etines for
looking after the
front table and to
Phillip, Benjamin,
Alfredy, Kevin
and Mduduzi for
putting up the**

**high banners and
the tarpaulin in
the rain. Thanks
to Chipopo and
Isabell for
looking after the
lucky dip to
fundraise for
ROHR Central**

**London branch.
Chipo made a
beautiful cake to
commemorate
the Queen's 90
th
birthday which
was enjoyed by
all.**

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

[photos/zimbabwevigil/](#)

. Please note: Vigil photos can only be downloaded from our Flickr website. For videos of Vigils and other events, check the ROHR

facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/www.rohrzimbabwe.org/videos?fref=photo>

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**FOR THE
RECORD: 44
signed the
register.**

EVENTS AND NOTICES:

- **Presentation
of Vigil petition to**

Botswana High Commission.

**Tuesday 14
th**

June at 11 am.

**Venue: Botswana
High Commission,
6 Stratford Place,
London W1C 1AY.**

Nearest station:
Bond Street. The
petition asks
President Ian
Khama as Chair of
SADC to ask the
region to intervene
in Zimbabwe. We
are gathering

outside the High
Commission at
10.30 am.

▪ **ROHR**
Reading branch
general meeting

. Saturday 18
th

June from 11.30
am – 1.30 pm.

Venue: Strand
Continental Hotel
(first floor lounge),
143 Strand,
London WC2R

1JA. For directions
see below.

Contact:

Nicodimus

Muganhu

07877386792,

Joshua Kahari

07877246251,

Charles

Mararirakwenda
07964731721,
Shylette
Chipangura
07828929806.

▪ **ROHR**

Central London branch meeting.

Saturday 18
th

June from 12 noon
– 2 pm. Venue:

The Theodore

Bullfrog, 26-30

John Adam Street,

London WC2N
6HL.Contact:
Fungayi Mabhunu
07907089899,
Mavis Chisvo
07944612944.

▪ **ROHR**
Leicester branch
meeting .
Saturday 18
th
June from 2 – 4
pm. Venue: the
Salvation Army,
Kildare Street,

Leicester LE1
3FY. Directions:
Opposite Peking
Chinese
Restaurant, City
Centre. Contact:
Enniah Dube
07403439707,
Yvonne Makombe

07453909247 and
Moline Nyabonda
07961250525.

▪ **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 us.

· **Swaziland**
Vigil. Saturday
y 25th
June from 10 am
to 1 pm outside
the Swaziland
High Commission,

**20 Buckingham
Gate, London
SW1E 6LB.**

**· MDC Youth
Family Fun Day.
Saturday 25**

th

June from 2 pm
until late. Venue:
Billing Aquadrome,
Crow Lane,
Northampton NN3
9DA. For more
information
contact:

Sharon Moyo
(07877224113)
Organising
Secretary and
Vusumuzi Ncube
(07758937280)
Youth Chair.

▪ **ROHR**
National
Executive
meeting .
Saturday 2
nd
July from 11 am to
1.30 pm. Venue:
Strand Continental

Hotel (first floor
lounge), 143
Strand, London
WC2R 1JA. For
directions see
below.

• **Zimbabwe
Action Forum
(ZAF). Saturday 2
Saturday 2
Saturday
nd
July from 6.15 pm.
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 a
shop. Nearest
underground:
Temple (District
and Circle lines)
and Holborn.

• **Zimbabwe
Action Forum
(ZAF) meets
regularly after the
Vigil to discuss
ways to help those
back in Zimbabwe
to fight oppression
and achieve true**

democracy.

▪ **Protest at
Zimbabwe
Conference 2016
‘Rebooting and
Rebuilding’.**

Tuesday 5 th

July from 8 am
onwards. Venue:
outside DLA Piper
UK LLP, 3 Noble
Street, London
EC2V 7EE. More
information as our

plans firm up. For
more information:

<http://africa-confidential-meetings.com/>

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▪ **Monthly Itai Dzamarara protest Saturday 9 th**

**July from 2 – 6 pm
outside the
Zimbabwe
Embassy in
London. The**

protest is to mark
sixteen months
since Dzamara's
abduction by
intelligence
agents.

▪ **Zimbabwe**
Yes We Can
Movement h
olds meetings in
London as the
political face of
ROHR and the
Vigil.

· **Zimbabwe
Vigil Highlights
2015** can be
viewed on this link:

[http://w
ww.zimvigil.co.uk/
vigil-news/campai](http://www.zimvigil.co.uk/vigil-news/campai)

[gn-news/746-zimbabwe-vigil-highlights-2015](#) .

Links to previous years' highlights are listed on 2015 Highlights page.

Facebook pages :

Vigil: <https://www.facebook.com/zimbabwevigil>

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

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