

As the Zanu PF regime crumbles its veneer of constitutionalism is rapidly peeling off. Any opposition to Mugabe is now seen as treason.

Even the regime's storm troops – the war veterans – have now been accused of being traitors for questioning Mugabe. The accusation came from the top civil servant in the veterans' ministry, retired Brigadier-General Asher Tapfunaneyi.

He was responding to a statement by the War Veterans' Association after a 7-hour leadership meeting. The statement accused Mugabe of entrenching dictatorial tendencies, egocentrism and misrule and said it would not support his re-election campaign (see: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-zimbabwe-protests-idUSKCN1030GV>

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Zimbabwe threatens "traitorous" war veterans after Mugabe attack and <http://www.voazimbabwe.com/a/war-veterans-dump-mugabe-back-zimbabwe-protesters/3429995.html> ).

The war veterans criticised the oppressive attitude shown towards peaceful protesters. This highhanded unconstitutional behaviour is shown by its treatment of Linda Masarire of the Vigil's sister organisation the Restoration of Human Rights in Zimbabwe who was arrested on 6<sup>th</sup> July during the peaceful shutdown protest and has since been detained in Chikurubi prison.

Linda came to public attention as a member of the Occupy Africa Unity Square Protest when she memorably said 'We are sick and tired of being sick and tired'.

She appeared in Mbare Magistrate's Court on Friday and was remanded in custody until Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July although her lawyer pointed out that her constitutional rights had already been violated by the prosecution's delay in bringing her to court. ROHR Zimbabwe has called on supporters to rally at the court on Tuesday.

### Other points

## Veneer peels – Zimbabwe Vigil Diary: 23rd July 2016

Written by Administrator

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- A very big crowd at the start of the Vigil. Regulars were joined by people from a protest against injustice and brutality in Zimbabwe outside 10 Downing Street. It was organised by a group from the north of England. It was good to have with us once again the dedicated human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell
- MDC UK protested outside the Embassy on Monday. They got into the Embassy and the police were called to evict them.
- A big thank you to Patricia Masamba for bringing the Vigil paraphernalia (banners, posters, tables etc) to the Vigil. Her journey was not without incident. Unable to get out of the Strand to park her car outside the Embassy she contacted Vigil co-ordinator Fungayi Mabhunu who happened to be in a bus also in the Strand. He leapt out and ran down the middle of the road looking for her car. Fortunately they were united and safely arrived for the start of the Vigil.
- A special thank you to Roseline Mukucha who took charge of the merchandise and the Vigil table helped by Etines Kapiya and Chipo Parirenyatwa. Roseline brought a new supply of Zimbabwe flags which are in great demand. Thanks to Emmaculate Tshuma for looking after the register and ensuring people signed and to Isabell Gwatidzo for selling raffle tickets for the ROHR Reading fundraiser. Thanks also the Phillip Mahlahla, Mduduzi Ndlovu, Kevin Gondo and Michael Sirewu for putting up the banners. Many people were there at the start to help – too many to mention individually.

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

**FOR THE RECORD:** over 100 signed the register.

### EVENTS AND NOTICES:

- **ROHR Reading branch summer national fundraiser.** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July from 2 pm till late. Venue: Pakistani Community Hall, London Road, Reading RG1 3PA. Contact: Nicodimus Muganhu 07877386792, Charles Mararirakwenda 07964731721, Joshua Kahari 07877246251, Shyllette Chipangura 07828929806, Deborah Harry 07578894896, Sihle Sibanda 07985712749.
- **Monthly Itai Dzamara protest** Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August from 2 – 6 pm outside the Zimbabwe Embassy in London. The protest is to mark seventeen months since Dzamara's abduction by intelligence agents.
- **Swaziland Vigil.** Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August from 10 am to 1 pm outside the Swaziland High Commission, 20 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB.

- **Vigil and ROHR Brighton to London Walk.** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August. The theme of our fundraising walk is 'Mourning the death of democracy and human rights in Zimbabwe'. The walk will end around 3 pm at the Vigil. If you wish to participate or sponsor the walkers contact

[info@zimrohr.org](mailto:info@zimrohr.org)

. More information to be provided as plans develop.

- **ROHR Central London branch meeting.** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016 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 National Executive meeting.** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September from 12 noon. Venue: Strand Continental Hotel (first floor lounge), 143 Strand, London WC2R 1JA. For directions see below.

- **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](http://www.w.rohrzimbabwe.org/)

[w.rohrzimbabwe.org/](http://www.w.rohrzimbabwe.org/)

. Any other website claiming to be the official website of ROHR in no way represents us.

- **Zimbabwe Action Forum (ZAF).** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 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.

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

- **Zimbabwe Vigil Highlights 2015** can be viewed on this link: <http://www.zimvigil.co.uk/vigil-news/campaign-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>