

Written by Administrator
Sunday, 07 August 2016 15:12 -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwevigil/28525004020/sizes/m/>

Exiled Zimbabweans are to appeal to the United Nations to prepare to intervene in Zimbabwe as the bankrupt regime teeters on the verge of violent unrest.

The Vigil today launched the following petition to the UN Secretary-General: *With mounting unrest in Zimbabwe, we urge you to appoint a Special Representative to prepare the ground for a UN Transitional Authority to take over from the failed Mugabe regime. We look to the Special Representative to initiate comprehensive negotiations so that the UN Transitional Authority can assume control of Zimbabwe's administrative structures – foreign affairs, defence, security, finance and communications – to ensure a level playing field conducive for credible national elections.*

The petition is the fruit of the late Vigil supporter Clifford Mashiri, an academic and former diplomat whose funeral took place in London on Tuesday.

Clifford said 'Arguably, governance would change in Zimbabwe by virtue of a UN Security Council resolution giving mandate to the UN Transitional Authority in Zimbabwe (UNTAZ) which will only withdraw after free and fair elections have been conducted.'

Clifford said the proposed Transitional Authority would be similar to that created in Cambodia. Acknowledging the wide range of political opinions in Zimbabwe, Clifford argued that, in order to wiggle out of the current economic crisis, Zimbabwe must eat humble pie.

In recent months there have been proposals from various quarters in Zimbabwe for some kind of transitional authority and – in the absence of any initiative by the Southern African Development Community – the Vigil believes Clifford's ideas offer a way forward (see: <http://nehandaradio.com/2016/07/30/former-diplomat-mugabe-critic-clifford-mashiri-dies/>).

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Other points

- The Vigil marked seventeen months since the abduction of human rights activist Itai Dzamara by government agents in Harare. It also expressed support for Linda Masarire of our sister organisation Restoration of Human Rights in Zimbabwe, who has been behind bars for the past month awaiting trial on trumped up charges. We received the following message today: 'I went to visit Linda at Chikurubi prison. She said to me that she wants to go home to her children and that she especially misses the youngest of them who is only two years old. She smiled and chatted away happily despite it all. But still I was so heartbroken.'

- Linda's next court hearing is on Thursday when we will hold a special Vigil outside the Embassy from 11 am – 2 pm. There will be surprise visitors to wish good luck to ROHR and Vigil walkers who are to set off from Brighton on Friday on a fundraising walk to end at the Vigil on Saturday. Thanks to John Burke and Rashiwe Bayisayi who have walked 100 miles to plan the best routes for the walkers.

- Supporters might have seen an article on the dodgy Zimeye website in which the Vigil was criticised for not allowing Stendrick Zvorwadza to address us last week (see: <http://www.zimeye.net/zvorwadza-flies-to-uk-blocked-by-rose-benton/>). Our refusal to give a hearing to this charlatan was because he still pretends to be the leader of ROHR and has yet to account for £2,000 we entrusted to him in 2008 to hand over to an orphanage we were supporting in Zimbabwe, as well as computers, phones and cameras for the ROHR office in Harare.

- Thanks to those who came early to help set up: Rashiwe Bayisayi, Isabell Gwatidzo, Etines Kapiya, Jonathan Kariwo, Fungayi Mabhunu, Phillip Mahlahla, Nancy Makurira, Marian Mangani, Rosemary Maponga, Bianca Mpawaenda, Eletha Mpofo, Roseline Mukucha, Alfredy Mukuvare, Esther Munyira, Mduduzi Ndlovu, Salom Nkiwane, Chipo Parirenyatwa, Eva Sanyahokwe and Sihle Sibanda. Thanks to Roseline, Esther and Etines for looking after the front table and to Phillip, Alfredy, Mduduzi and Cephas for putting up the banners. Chipo P was once again very effective in getting donations for ROHR Leicester's joint project with ROHR in Hangwe to provide food and school fees for the children there.

- Martin Chinyanga made a video at the Vigil last week, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bK7AnHxh-q8>

- For video and photos of the protest in Harare on Wednesday, see <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/08/zimbabwe-police-violently-break-anti-mugabe-protests-160803135758077.html> and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-36968995>

For latest Vigil pictures check: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwевigil/>. 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: 54 signed the register.

EVENTS AND NOTICES:

- **Protest to support Linda Masarire:** Thursday 11th August from 11 am – 2 pm outside the Zimbabwe Embassy.
- **Vigil and ROHR Brighton to London Walk.** Friday 12th August to Saturday 13th August. The theme of our fundraising walk is 'Mourning the death of democracy and human rights in Zimbabwe'. The walk starts in Brighton on Friday and will end around 3 pm at the Vigil. If you wish to participate or sponsor the walkers contact info@zimrohr.org
- **Swaziland Vigil.** Saturday 20th August from 10 am to 1 pm outside the Swaziland High Commission, 20 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB.
- **ROHR Central London branch meeting.** Saturday 20th 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 3rd 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.rohrzimbabwe.org/>
- . Any other website claiming to be the official website of ROHR in no way represents us.
- **Zimbabwe Action Forum (ZAF).** Saturday 3rd 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.
- **Monthly Itai Dzamara protest** Saturday 10th September From 2 – 6 pm outside the Zimbabwe Embassy in London. The protest is to mark eighteen months since Dzamara's abduction by intelligence agents.
- **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>

Vigil petitions UN for transitional authority – Zimbabwe Vigil Diary: 6th August 2016

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

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

ROHR:

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