

## Grotesque birthday feast – Zimbabwe Vigil Diary: 25th February 2017

Written by Administrator

Sunday, 26 February 2017 16:22 - Last Updated Sunday, 26 February 2017 16:22

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<https://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwevigil/33114476165/sizes/m/>

The Mugabe family and their cronies feasted on a 93 kg cake at a requisitioned school in Matobo where local people live in desperate poverty, their children starving, increasingly cut off from the outside world by decaying infrastructure.

A message from a pastors' forum in Bulawayo said they were appalled at the money being spent on Mugabe's birthday party and listed some of the pressing needs in the area that could benefit from this money. They quoted Proverbs: 29 v 2: 'When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked rule, the people mourn.'

The grotesque party for Mugabe's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday was particularly insulting to the local people because the venue is so close to the graves of victims of Mugabe's Gukurahundi genocide of the 1980s, orchestrated by Vice President Mnangagwa.

With us at the Vigil was Enniah Dube, Vice President of Restoration of Human Rights in Zimbabwe, who grew up in the area. She said: 'the idea to hold a party for Mugabe there is highly insensitive and an insult to the people of Matabeleland. It's like telling people to stop mourning their deceased and dine with the murderer. Those of us who witnessed the Gukurahundi era will never have closure until Mugabe and his cronies answer for their crimes.'

Mugabe at 93 is fast failing. But he is the only thing Zanu PF can rally around. When Grace said he could stand for re-election next year even if he is dead, people laughed. Then it dawned on everyone that the Mugabes were deadly serious. After all, whole cemeteries of skeletons over 100 years old were on the voters' roll for the 2013 elections. They all voted for Mugabe then and will no doubt be even keener now that he himself is approaching 100.

It wouldn't be surprising if he was already gearing them up to go canvassing for him in the dead of night. No use locking your doors, they will simply walk through them. It is well known that Mugabe is keen on the occult. He said it was because Mai Mujuru was trying to put spells on him that he had to get rid of her.

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For her part, Grace Mugabe, as befits someone with a doctorate, takes a more scientific view. She wisely warns girls that they are more likely to get pregnant than boys and cites her evidence: 'If you look at the statistics, girls have nearly 100% chance of getting pregnant, while boys have nearly zero chances of falling pregnant. This means girls have to be extra vigilant' (see: <http://thesoutherndaily.co.za/index.php/2017/02/19/girls-have-high-chance-of-pregnancy-says-mugabe/> ).

### Other points

- Thanks to Fungayi Mabhunu for playing the role of Mugabe in our mask at the Vigil at which we demonstrated against Grace Mugabe's remarks about a dead Mugabe standing at the next election and the extravagance of his birthday feast. We were sorry to hear that several ROHR members were assaulted today by police after demonstrating against Mugabe outside Parirenyatwa Hospital.

- Thanks to those who arrived early to help set up: Zodwa Bhebhe, Vimbayi Chambara, Enniah Dube, Daizy Fabian, Isabell Gwatidzo, Christopher Kamuzonde, Etines Kapiya, Alice Majola, Nyarai Masvosva, Benjamin Molife, Roseline Mukucha, Alfredy Mukuvare, Deline Mutendi, Sally Mutseyami, Patience Muyeye, Evy Muyeza, Edward Ndlovu, Tsitsi Ngoro, Pretty Okechukwu, Maxmus Savanhu, Ephraim Tapa and Fadzai Tembo. Thanks to Roseline, Isabell and Pretty for looking after the front table, to Patience, Alice and Abigail Chidavayenzi for handing out flyers and selling wristbands and to Enniah, Maxmus, Fadzai and Alfredy for putting up the banners and tarpaulin.

For latest Vigil pictures check: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwевigil/> . Please note: Vigil photos can only be downloaded from our Flickr website. The facebook page for our sister organisation Restoration of Human Rights in Zimbabwe (ROHR) ( <https://www.facebook.com/ROHR-Zimbabwe-Restoration-of-Human-Rights-301811392835> ) has been hijacked by destructive elements from a group calling itself ZHRO. Please be advised that any postings on this page are not posted by ROHR.

**FOR THE RECORD:** 52 signed the register.

### EVENTS AND NOTICES:

- **Xenophobia Protest.** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March from 10 am – 2 pm. Venue: Outside the South African High Commission, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DP. Contact: Rose

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Maponga 07565842415, Rumbi Sambana 07455518071 and Martin Chinyanga 07766825016.

- **Swaziland Vigil.** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March from 10 am to 1 pm outside the Swaziland High Commission, 20 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB.
  - **Monthly Itai Dzamara protest.** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 2 – 6 pm outside the Zimbabwe Embassy. The protest is to mark two years since Itai's abduction by intelligence agents.
  - **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.
  - **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 Yes We Can Movement** holds meetings in London as the political face of ROHR and the Vigil.
  - **Zimbabwe Vigil Highlights 2016** can be viewed on this link: <http://www.zimvigil.co.uk/vigil-news/campaign-news/843-zimbabwe-vigil-highlights-2016>
  - . Links to previous years' highlights are listed on 2016 Highlights page.
  - **Facebook pages:** Vigil: <https://www.facebook.com/zimbabwevigil> ROHR: <https://www.facebook.com/Restoration-of-Human-Rights-ROHR-Zimbabwe-International-370825706588551/>
- ZAF:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Zimbabwe-Action-Forum-ZAF/490257051027515>