

Report on demonstration on Wednesday's 8th February

Written by Administrator
Sunday, 12 February 2017 15:21 -

By Rumbidzayi Sambana

The arrival and immediate arrest of Pastor Evan Mawarire on Wednesday 1st February caused quite a stir among Zimbabweans. Euphoria swept many but questions why he had returned flooded social media platforms. Within hours we learnt that he had been charged with a serious offence, denied bail and remanded in custody.

When his bail hearing was set for 8th February, we realised that we needed to have a demonstration to show our support for the pastor and all other activists who have been arrested or reported missing. More than a dozen people braved the freezing weather and turned up to protest against the flagrant abuse of human and political rights of all those who do stand up and speak out.

Upon arrival the embassy was open, both the consulate and the tourism office. Our small band of singing and dancing protesters made enough noise for the Embassy to close their doors and call the police, who were very friendly and more than willing to be in a photo with us.

Towards the end of our protest we got news that Pastor Evan had been granted bail to the relief of the group.

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ROHR and the Vigil are holding another demonstration outside the Embassy on Friday 17th February when Pastor Evan appears in court again.

Attendees: Rumbidzayi Sambana, Gift Moyo, Mduduzi Ndlovu, Rose Maponga, Fungayi Mabhunu, Yvonne Bonde, Flemming Diza, Junior Mapanga, Bianca Monica Mpawaenda, Howard Zikhale, Ebson Chigwedere, Salome Nkiwani and Lloyd Mudzengere.