

Zimbabwean exiles call for new elections

Written by Administrator
Thursday, 01 August 2013 13:36 -

As votes were cast in the Zimbabwe elections, Zimbabwean exiles and supporters in London called on South Africa to organize new elections in keeping with the agreed roadmap and election guidelines of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The call came during a six hour demonstration by the Zimbabwe Vigil outside the Zimbabwe Embassy in London on election day , 31st July, in protest at the rigging of the vote by Mugabe's Zanu PF party.

About 70 Vigil supporters were joined by members of Action for Southern Africa , the successor to the Anti-Apartheid Movement, and representatives of the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party. Also there was the human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell.

The protest was covered by a variety of news organisations who showed particular interest in the Vigil's depiction of how Mugabe was stealing the elections.

A Vigil leader, Fungayi Mabhunu, wearing a Mugabe mask, was filmed stuffing ballot boxes with votes from large black bags labeled Nikuv – the Israeli company accused of helping Zanu PF rig the elections.

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As the demonstration got under way Fungayi received a text from Harare that an informant in the Zimbabwean Electoral Commission had disclosed that polling stations in MDC strongholds were being supplied with Nikuv pens with ink which disappeared after a few hours.

During the afternoon Vigil supporters moved en masse around the corner for a boisterous demonstration outside the South African High Commission, where the following letter was delivered:

'Dear President Zuma

Zimbabwe elections not credible

Zimbabwean exiles and supporters deplore the refusal of President Mugabe to ensure the elections are free and fair. There is overwhelming evidence that the poll has been comprehensively rigged and we have no confidence that the results will reflect the will of the people.

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The Zimbabwe Vigil calls on the Southern African Development Community to organise new elections in keeping with the agreed roadmap and SADC election guidelines.

We caution you that, as things stand, there will inevitably be a new mass exodus of desperate and impoverished people fleeing Zimbabwe as the Mugabe mafia intensifies its looting, sending the country's economy into a cataclysmic decline'

For film coverage of our protest by CBC check: <http://www.cbc.ca/player/News/World/ID/2398974727/>
Photos of the protest are on: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwevigil/sets/72157634873340843/>