

## **Zimbabweans in London mourn the Death of Democracy**

Written by Administrator

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Zimbabwean exiles are to stage demonstrations in London on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June outside the Zimbabwe Embassy, the South African High Commission and the Mandela concert in Hyde Park . The demonstrations follow the decision by the Zimbabwean opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai to pull out of Friday's Presidential run-off because of the violence and vote rigging by the Mugabe regime.

The London demonstrators will mark the death of democracy in Zimbabwe with a ballot box in the shape of a coffin on display outside the Embassy. The coffin will be carried to the nearby South African High Commission containing a petition calling on President Mbeki to stop supporting Mugabe. The petition has been signed by many hundreds of people from all over the world passing by the Zimbabwe Vigil, which has been protesting outside the Embassy in London for the past six years in support of democracy in Zimbabwe .

Zimbabwean demonstrators will also be present at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park on Friday to urge Nelson Mandela to speak out about the situation in Zimbabwe . Mr Mandela will be attending a concert at the Parade Ground in Hyde Park to mark his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

- Protest outside Zimbabwe Embassy – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June from 10 am to 4 pm. Ex-President Mugabe or someone looking very much like him will be there.
- South African High Commission from 1-2 pm – presentation of the following petition: “A petition to President Mbeki of South Africa . Exiled Zimbabweans and supporters urge you to stop supporting Mugabe and allow a peaceful transfer of power from the military regime to the Zimbabwean people. Our blood is at your door.”
- After the Embassy demonstration we will move to Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park to ask Mandela to speak out against Mugabe. The concert starts at 6.30 pm .
- For further information, contact: Rose Benton (07970 996 003, 07932 193 467), Dumi Tutani (07960 039 775) and Ephraim Tapa (07940 793 090).