

Memo to Mozambique – 21st August 2012

Written by Administrator
Tuesday, 21 August 2012 18:13 -

Zimbabwean exiles demonstrated outside the Mozambique High Commission in London on Tuesday to urge the new SADC Chair, Mozambican President Guebuza, to keep up pressure to secure free and fair elections in Zimbabwe next year. The demonstration was part of the 21st Movement Free Zimbabwe Global Diaspora Protest which has seen protests on the 21st of each month since January.

A letter was handed over to a Mozambique official by nine year old Leslie Nkanyezi representing the group of demonstrators from the MDC, the Zimbabwe Vigil, ROHR and the Zimbabwe We Can (ZWC) movement. Leslie was accompanied by a small delegation including Tonderai Samanyanga, Chair of MDC UK, Nobuhle Mazula of ZWC and Linnet Moyo of the Zimbabwe Vigil.

The demonstrators were at pains to explain that they had no complaint against Mozambique. Tonderai told the official that what they wanted was the full implementation of the Global Political Agreement. He said Zanu PF was making a deliberate attempt to derail the process and SADC needed to make sure they kept to the road map.

Earlier, David Kadzutu of the MDC and ZWC said the demonstrators were appealing to President Guebuza to assist Zimbabweans who have been suffering so much. He brought with him a large and colourful banner reading 'President Armando Emílio Guebuza respect the GPA, GNU pliz bcz Zimbabweans have suffered enough'.

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Other banners included: SADC save Zimbabwe, Fair elections for Zimbabwe, No rule of law in Zimbabwe, Stop Zimbabwe election violence, Democracy in Zimbabwe a dream deferred by Zanu PF schemes, No to Zanu PF Mafia-organised terrorism to Zimbabwe and Zimbabweans etc.

The following was the text of the letter to President Guebeza which everyone signed.

Your Excellency

Zimbabweans in the diaspora – of whom there are millions – urge you as the new Chair of SADC to give priority to dealing with the dangerous situation in Zimbabwe in the run-up to next year's crucial elections.

We are pleased to see that the summit in Maputo reaffirmed the decisions already taken on Zimbabwe but we see little evidence of urgency in the summit resolutions, particularly in preparing the ground so that the elections will be free and fair.

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We are unhappy that President Mugabe's Zanu PF party is still being allowed to put obstacles in the way of any reforms. We draw your attention to the remarks made by Daniel Bekele, Africa Director at Human Right Watch: 'SADC leaders need to maintain pressure on ZANU-PF to honor its commitment to reform. They should make it clear that there will be consequences if ZANU-PF fails to adhere to the terms of the election road map and the GPA.' (See: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201208150842.html>).

We believe SADC should now insist that Zanu PF immediately end its refusal to the appointment of SADC representatives to the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC).

The protest was attended by: Tichaona Chikandamina, Itayi Chingwaru, Isabella Chirimuuta, K udakwashe Chitiva, Susan Chiwenga, Hilda Gwesele, David Kadzutu, Kelvin Kamupira, Prosper Karuru, Arnold Magwanyata, Iline Manhunzi, Yvonne Maposa, Cephas Maswoswa, Nobuhle Mazula, Esinati Mbaluku, Linnet Moyo, Lawrence Muchochoma, David Mukaro, Cynthia Mutede, Leslie Nkanyezi, Tonderai Samanyanga, Tamary Sithole, Dennis and Rose Benton.

For pictures of the protest check: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwevigil/sets/7215763177259558/>