

ZIMBABWE

The issues central to the crisis in Zimbabwe

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report seeks to brief the world, Africa in particular on the issues central to the crisis in Zimbabwe. Present day Zimbabwe represents a failed state; the average person in Zimbabwe's standard of life has gone back to approximately 1954. There is a crisis in Zimbabwe. The government of Zimbabwe argues that the crisis is "an American and British agenda to remove President Mugabe from power and to reverse the land reform program" whilst the civil society and opposition political parties point that there is "a crisis of governance and the illegitimacy of the present government in Zimbabwe".

This report has three sections, (a) state of the nation report, (b) the government of Zimbabwe's view and (c) the people of Zimbabwe's cry.



Nelson Chamisa (30), a Zimbabwean Member of Parliament in hospital after being attacked by perceived state agents. He was attacked at the International Airport on his way to the Africa-Pacific-Caribbean- E.U meeting in Brussels in March 2007. No one has been arrested in that attack. Since 1980, the year of Zimbabwe's independence, more than 26 000 have been killed, and no one has been brought to trial for that.

2.0 STATE OF THE NATION REPORT- ZIMBABWE

- * Robert Mugabe is the president of Zimbabwe and has ruled for 27 years since independence in April 1980.
- * Zimbabwe has an estimated population of 12 million people, 3 million of which have migrated to South Africa and the United Kingdom among others for political and economic reasons
- * the average life expectancy of a Zimbabwean has sunk to an average 33 years in 2006 from a peak of 66 in 1990.
- * 80% of the people of Zimbabwe are not employed, and the majority of the employed 20% earns a monthly salary of USD20 or 186 000 Ghanaian Cedi.
- * Education and health fees are pegged far beyond the reach of many people, and every week, an average 2500 people die.
- * in 2007, 19% of the people are HIV/AIDS positive and of the estimated 9 million people in Zimbabwe, 60% are below the age of 16 years.

- * since 1980, opposition political parties have been crashed in Zimbabwe, mostly for alleged links with Britain and America.
- * In 2000, up to 4 000 white farmers owned more than 60% of the productive agricultural land, and after the government land reform in 2005, less than 3000 black ruling elite own more than 80% of the land (A2 model) with up to 20 000 poor people crammed on 20% of the land. (A1 model)
- * The three notable opposition leaders to be charged with treason include Joshua Nkomo (1983), Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole (1995), and Morgan Tsvangirai (2002).
- * Zimbabwe's inflation rate was pegged at 3 700% as of April 2007

3.0 Government of Zimbabwe's statement to the ACHPR, ACCRA Ghana, 17 May 2007. Presented by Zimbabwe's Minister of Justice, Honourable Patrick Chinamasa.

- The issue in Zimbabwe is land, and it was a virtue of the liberation struggle
- 650 NGOs were created between 2000- 2005
- NGOs have been created to effect regime change, through unconstitutional means and to reverse the land reform program
- Some media have been included in this anti-Zimbabwe struggle
- The imposition of illegal sanctions on the people and leaders of Zimbabwe
- Creation of illegal media including online publications and radio stations, VOP, VOA that call on the people to carry up arms
- The created opposition MDC is helped to use violence to effect regime change
- The use of double standards that when one person dies in Zimbabwe, the world moves, but when 100 die elsewhere, no one speaks
- The MDC, ZCTU, NGOs and other political mal-contents, that have no support all work towards regime change

GoZ recommendations to the ACHPR,

- a) Call for the removal of all forms of economic sanctions on Zimbabwe
- b) That the commission asks the British government to honour its promises to fund land reform in Zimbabwe
- c) That the British government desist from effecting illegal regime change in Zimbabwe in blatant violation of our sovereignty
- d) That the Dutch, British and the Americans switch off their illegal radio stations focusing on Zimbabwe
- e) That Africa must not be accomplices to the Western sponsored spirit of regime change, as happened to Patrice Lumumba and Kwameh Nkrumah.
- f) We as Zimbabwe want to be treated fairly, impartially and that the commission separates facts from fiction

4.0 THE PEOPLE'S PROPOSALS

- a) that the government of Zimbabwe stops the abductions, torture and attacks of the opposition activists including lawyers, journalists and other human rights defenders
- b) that the government brings to justice the 37 opposition political prisoners in detention now for 55 days.

- c) that the government of Zimbabwe facilitates a process for the people of Zimbabwe to write a new democratic constitution assisted by the SADC ,the AU and their institutions
- d) that the government of Zimbabwe opens up the democratic space including the media for all people including the opposition political parties
- e) that the government of Zimbabwe organizes free and fair elections where the SADC and the AU will oversee to resolve the current illegitimacy crisis in Zimbabwe

NB: It is the strong position of the people of Zimbabwe that once there is a new democratic constitution that has separation of powers, we have capacity as a country to stop the vices such as human rights abuses, corruption and build the socio-economic base for Zimbabwe's development.

(f) Ideological disposition: We note a worrying ideological disposition among our ruling elite in Zimbabwe. 170 people that have, and continue to participate in the abduction and torture of innocent civilians and the political opposition party members have been BANNED from traveling to Europe and the United States of America. Their moneys and assets in foreign accounts have been frozen.

The posture by the government of Zimbabwe that the people of Zimbabwe are under sanctions and that once they are allowed to travel to Europe, then the problems will be over is an insult on African intelligence.

Noting that land is, and remains a critical factor in Zimbabwe's liberation struggle, the present state where less than 3 000 black lords now own the land has created a new page of native imperialism in Zimbabwe. The issue was not to remove "white people" only, but to distribute the land to the poor majority. Ideologically, a capitalist remains a capitalist whether black or white, and our position as the people of Zimbabwe remains that we need our land.

**“..the greatest tool in the hands of the oppressor is the
complicity of the oppressed”**

Stephen Bantu Biko, South Africa

*Presented by the Zimbabwe Exiles Forum, based in Johannesburg, South Africa
Accra, 16 May 2007, ACHPR*