

JANUARY 1986

Sat 11

Headline - *Charges Dropped* – Zimbabwe has dropped charges against a white safari operator who protected 26 foreign tourists against anti government rebels by feeding the guerillas brandy laced with sleeping pills. Alan Elliot spent nearly five weeks in gaol after being accused of failing to report the presence of rebels. - AP -

Wed 15

Headline – *Death Sentence* – A Zimbabwe rebel who killed a family of three and a black policeman in Southern Matebeleland province was sentenced to death in Bulawayo yesterday. Robson Moyo [24] was found guilty of murdering Paul Savage and his daughter Colleen and a British visiting family friend Sandra Bennet. - Reuters -

Headline – *Harare Visit* – President Ali Khamani of Iran is to pay a two day visit to Zimbabwe from 29/1 a government spokesman announced in Harare. - Reuters -

Fri 17

Headline – *Zanu Dismissal* – The ruling party of the Zimbabwe African National Union has dismissed its Harare provincial vice chairman for alleged misconduct including criticism of the PM Mr Robert Mugabe, the Herald newspaper reported yesterday. Mr Jjekanyika was dismissed after party leaders passed a vote of no confidence in him. - AP -

Wed 22

Headline – *Farmer Shot* – Rebel gunmen shot dead a white Zimbabwean farm manager in Matebeleland province yesterday. Hector Argyle was driving on the ranch when he was ambushed, neighbourhood farmers said. - AP -

Thurs 23

Headline – *Emergency Renewed* – Zimbabwe 's parliament yesterday renewed the state of emergency which gives the government wide ranging powers including the right to detain people indefinitely without trial.

Even as opposition MP 's were criticising the government for alleged abuse of its powers of government were introducing two new bills to make the SOE unnecessary. One will give the cabinet powers to enact new laws and the other will give the government the right to detain people without trial. - A Meldrum GDN page 8 C 3 -

MARCH 1986

Tues 18

Headline *Ruling Expected* – The Zimbabwe High Court is expected to rule this week on two

Britons, who have been held without trial since the beginning of 1983, Mr P Hartlebury and Mr C Evans were acquitted more than three years ago on charges of spying but were arrested even though no fresh charges were brought against them. - GDN page 7 C 1 -

Thurs 26

Headline – *Pleas Dismissed* – Harare High Court yesterday dismissed appeals for the release of four men alleged to have spied for South Africa. P Hartlebury and C Evens were arrested in 1981 on charges of passing security information to SA. They were acquitted in 1983 but immediately re detained. - *Reuters* -

APRIL 1986

Fri 3

Headline – *Detainees Freed* – Three Supreme Court judges in Harare yesterday ordered the release from detention of two senior white customs officials held without charge for allegedly spying for South Africa. The ruling, by the highest court in the land, was immediately seen by lawyers as a direct challenge to the use of the detention laws under which hundreds of Zimbabweans have been held as alleged spies, saboteurs and subversives. - *AP* -

MAY 1986

Thurs 29

Headline – *Nigeria Gift* – Nigeria yesterday gave Zimbabwe \$1m in cash to help to stage the forthcoming summit of the 101 country Non Aligned Movement in Harare. - *Reuters* -

JULY 1986

Thurs 10

Headline – *Eight Freed* - Zimbabwe, criticised by Amnesty International over its human rights record, has released eight detainees the government said yesterday. Some of them have been held since 1984 for security offences. He gave no details of the crimes of which those released had been accused. - *Reuters* -

Fri 18

Headline – *Torture Ban* – Zimbabwe 's Home Affairs Minister Mr Enos Nkala said today he would not tolerate police torturing people they arrested as this was a violation of human rights. “Zimbabwe cannot be a society of torturers.” “We can arrest dissidents and shoot if they shoot at us and I don 't regard this as torture.” - *Reuters* -

OCTOBER 1986

Tues 28

Headline – *Killers Charged* – Two former soldiers in Zimbabwe 's Fifth Brigade were charged

with the 1982 murder of three British tourists who were visiting the eastern Inyanga mountain resort. L Vurayia [21] and B Chokani [24] pleaded not guilty. A Meldrum Harare GDN page 8 C 8 -

NOVEMBER 1986

Thurs 13

Headline – *Two Jailed* – Two former Zimbabwe soldiers were found guilty in Harare yesterday of murdering three British tourists in 1982 and sentenced to life imprisonment. L Vorayi [21] and B Chokani [24] pleaded not guilty to killing the 3 in July 1982. - *Reuters* -

Fri 21

Headline – *Fatter Fares* – Private taxi owners in Bulawayo infuriated by 'huge and overweight' passengers have started charging double *the fare* Ziana reported yesterday. - *Reuters* -

Sat 22

Headline – *Whites Arrested* – Five elderly whites have been arrested in Bulawayo for having 'offensive' souvenirs bearing Zimbabwe's pre independence name Rhodesia and pictures of the former PM Ian Smith. The 5 spent a night in the cells and were freed on bail pending trial. *Reuters*

Sun 30

Headline – *Zimbabwe Hope* – The possibility of a political merger between Zimbabwe 's two main black parties, the ruling Zanu PF and Joshua Nkomo 's Zapu, has been heightened this weekends release of a former senior Zapu man. Dumiso Dabengwa who was top man in the pre independence guerilla forces, was imprisoned 14 years ago when were found in Zapu owned property. He is now regarded as a key to unity between the parties – which the Zimbabwe PM Robert Mugabe is said to be determined to achieve by the end of the year. G Matutu Harare; OBS page 2 C 7 -

DECEMBER 1986

Mon 8

Headline – *Scandal Schools* – The Zimbabwe government last year sacked 173 teachers, from state schools, most for having love affairs with their pupils. An official report published yesterday said the others were dismissed for stealing from school funds and various misdemeanour's. - AP -

Mon 22

Headline – *Zanu Boss Out* – Zimbabwe PM, Robert Mugabe, has sacked Justice Minister Eddison Zvobgo from his post as chairman of the ruling Zanu PF party in Masvinga province. Mr Mugabe said the party disciplinary committee had found Zvobgo guilty of misconduct during the funeral of of a party member in June. - *Reuters* - words written in *italics* added by diarist