

## JANUARY 2005

### Thurs 6

Headline – *Zanu – PF high flyer caught in Mugabe purge* – the continued fall out, from those deemed a possible challenge to rule by Mugabe (qv 2/12) has claimed a new victim. Foe 10 years P Chiyangwa has been a loyal party member and MP. Now he is no more the dapper dressing and favourite of the press corps as he resides in a jail cell.

His crime was to ally himself to those party members who showed support for parliamentary speaker, E Mnangagwa, who was the president's heir apparent until recently. Only now, having been detained, on 15/12, has he sent to court, where he complained of brutality of his detention. Five others face criminal charges, of espionage. Among them is the countries ambassador to Mozambique and a bank director.

Other 'notable' casualties of the opponents of Mugabe include J Moyo, P Chinamassa the justice minister and J Chinotimba who led the invasions of white owned farmland. – **GDN page 14, C7 –**

### Tues 18

Headline – *Zimbabwe: the terror and the abuse goes on* – as a delegation from the Southern African Corporation prepares to visit the country there is substantial evidence that torture and abuse of those opposed to the rule of Mugabe continues.

The three man delegation – from South Africa, Botswana and Lesotho – ordered in to check on conditions (qv 18/8) for free and fair parliamentary elections in 3/05 come at a time that heralds a tightening of rule by the authorities in Harare. Already announced rules and regulations, covering press laws and a soon to be enacted rules that prevent the passing of information that is deemed prejudicial are designed to limit the freedom of ordinary Zimbabweans.

As of this time there is ample evidence that supporters of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change are being targeted by the police or the Zanu – PF Youth Brigade. In the latest case – on the day that Morgan Tsvangaria was cleared of plotting to assassinate Mugabe (qv 15/10) a party official was subject to an attack.

Tabeth Shoniwa, the MBC chair of Ward 5, in Epworth southeast Harare, was doused in paraffin and set alight. Photographed and documented and treated by medics who will work – despite intimidation by the state – show extensive burns to the upper part of her body.

Continuing abuse, recorded by those who are working with opponents of the Harare regime, both inside and outside Zimbabwe, with this evidence poor scorn on Britain who

after a home office decision (qv 17/12) have sent more than 10 asylum seekers back to the land of their birth. – **GDN page 2, C1** –

### **Thurs 20**

Headline – *Zimbabwe breaks up South Africa spy ring* – members of the Central Intelligence Organisation arrested five members of the top echelons of society on 15/12. They were charged with espionage, along with a member of the secret service from across the border in South Africa.

Those charged, along with the unnamed 48 year old white man, were named as P Chiyangwa a Zanu PF provincial chairman, G Dzviro MP and ambassador designate to Mozambique, K Karidza Zanu's security director, T Matambanadzo director of the Metropolitan bank and I Marchi the ruling party's director of external affairs.

The arrests came as CIO set up a 'sting organisation.' The target, which gave the names during questioning, was lured across the border from Livingstone in Zambia, to meet his contact at a border hotel.

It is thought that this intelligence gathering operation, in which Pretoria was paying Chyangwa 5, 300 pounds [English] per month, to detail the inner workings of Zanu PF and indicates the lack of trust between Mugabe and Mbeki. Those accused face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

As events unfolded north of the Limpopo the ANC, through its secretary general K Motlanthi, said that the Zimbabwe opposition should be allowed to hold meetings freely. "You cannot have a registered party restricted in this way." – **GDN page 18, C1** –

### **Wed 26**

Headline – *MDC urges pressure in Mugabe* – with the imminent arrival of a three man troika from the Southern African Development Corporation set to arrive in the country the opposition leader, M Tsvangaria, has posed a pertinent question.

On a trip to Johannesburg he stated the question to ask the authorities in Harare was are credible elections possible under the current conditions? In his opinion the answer is no. With the party's decision on whether to play a part in the 3/05 vote still pending he urged the group to influence Mugabe to adhere to the standards set, in 2004, by the 14 nation body. - **GDN page 16, C3** –

### **Sat 29**

Headline – *Warning on Zimbabwe food crisis* – reiterating the warning, given by the United Nation's World Food Programme – see page 138 – a report by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network has cast doubt on the ability of the authorities in Harare to feed those that are in danger of going hungry in the immediate future.

According to this latest report 5.8m people, out of a population of 12.5m are now at risk of food shortages. – **GDN page 18, C 4** –

## **FEBRUARY**

### **Fri 4**

Headline – *Party to contest Zimbabwe poll* – Zimbabwe’s Movement for Democratic Change is dropping its polls boycott and will contest the 31/3 parliamentary elections to make a statement “against the tyranny of the this criminal state.” – **AP** –

### **Wed 9**

Headline – *Zanu – PF hits out at Tutu* – Zimbabwe’s ruling party, Zanu PF, denounced South African Nobel peace laureate Desmond Tutu yesterday, saying his criticisms of Zimbabwe played into the hands of white racists.

Didiymus Mutasa, the fifth – ranking party official, described Bishop Tutu as “an embittered little man who lost his soul to false gods” such as Tony Blair and President Bush, the state run Herald newspaper reported. – **AP** –

### **Thurs 10**

Headline – *Prison for Zimbabwe spies* – there is no word on the fate of the 48 year old South African national accused of co ordinating a Zanu PF spy ring north of the Limpopo River. However the fate of three named (qv 20/1) has already been decided.

G Dzviro will serve six years in jail. Itai Marchi, Zanu PF’s director of external affairs, and director of the Metropolitan Bank T Matambanadzo will serve five years in detention. Those still on trial are a ruling party member of parliament - who is suspected of being the ringleader of the spy ring – and the Zanu’ security advisor. – **GDN page 18 C 7** –

### **Sat19**

Headline – *Zimbabwe journalists flee threats* – effective coverage, of events in this troubled country, have further been denuded as a number of media types have left the country. Under threat of prosecution, and several days of police questioning, experienced journalists have relocated to South Africa.

A Shaw correspondent for the wire service Associated Press [**AP**], J Raathe of The Times and B Latham of the Bloomberg news agency were subjected to office searches and told in no uncertain terms that they faced custodial terms if they were charged by the police. Commenting on events lawyer B Mtetwa – who also acts for A Meldrum (qv) -

said of the police action “It is clear that they were just searching just to charge them with.”

With these latest ‘expulsions’ the press interest in Zimbabwe rests with Petra Thornycroft of the Daily Telegraph, see page 164, Reuters and AFP. – **GDN page 20, C 5** –

## **MARCH 2005**

### **Fri 4**

After a successful appeal, Zimbabwe is to free and deport 62 South Africans jailed last year on charges linked to a coup attempt in Equatorial Guinea, officials said; two South African pilots and the Briton Simon Mann accused of leading a coup plot, would remain in prison. – *Reuters* -

Headline – *Borrowed Time* - returning home writer, cum journalist and farmers son, rationalises the life of those whites who have chosen to stay in the land of their birth rather than flee the Mugabe regime

With parents living, on once scrubland – now a tourist location for weekenders in the Eastern Highlands four hours drive from the capital Harare, Douglas Rogers visits his parents and the home he lived in for 22 years before leaving for London 12 months ago.

The parents are waiting for the follow up to a Section 5, this told them to be prepared to leave their 750 acre land as it was subject to compulsory purchase by the government. The Section 8 notice will tell them the date when they will have to leave the land.

For the son, even with his new British passport cost him US\$70, as a journalist to come to the country on the eve of parliamentary elections was a risk.

Notable facts now only 500 white farmers remain on their land [1980, 4, 500]. 50, 000 whites in the whole country [1970’s 250, 000]. This is out of a total population of 12m. 1.5m Zimbabweans are desperate for food aid the government spends US\$8m on imported maize. Inflation 133% - **G2 page 2/3** –

### **Thus 17**

Headline – *Fair poll in Zimbabwe ‘impossible’* – the fore mentioned is the conclusion of the anti – torture campaign group Redress. This assessment is made, and supported by Amnesty International, on the evidence that state police have acted with impunity in a campaign aimed at opposition supporters prior to the looming parliamentary elections.

In a further blow, that would see the elections being seen to be impartial, observers from the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions have been excluded from the list of those allowed to observe the voting process 'first hand.' – **GDN page 12 C2** –

### **Fri 18**

Headline – ***Zimbabwe child death rates highest in the world*** – speaking across the border, in South Africa, the executive director of Unicef C Bellamy, linked the high mortality rate of under 5's north of the Limpopo to the policies of Mugabe.

According to figures published for the United Nations Children Fund 1:8 in this age range will die even before they start school. In the 1990's, when there was an effective health service in the country, pre school death rates were 1:12.

Much of the blame lies with the regime in Harare, where the president spends a large proportion of the available funds propping up the regime through an increased security and military budget, however the international community is not without fault. With a falling away of support for the corrupt regime donations to healthcare programmes have been cut by the largest donors.

The largest killer, in the country, is the Aids virus, which affects 24% of the population. Donations, by the three largest – the US, World Bank and the UN's Global Fund in the region - are on average \$74 38 pounds [English]. For the care of such patients in Zimbabwe the amount is just \$4.

Long known, by the international community, president Mugabe had said that his country is short of food, but promised not to let his people starve. – **GDN page 17 C1** –

### **Sat 19**

Headline – ***Zimbabwe bars 3 million voters*** – the supreme court has ruled that overseas Zimbabwe nationals are not eligible to vote in the 31/3 elections. The ruling, by the chief justice G Chidyausiku –a Zanu PF appointee – will hugely affect the chances of the opposition in its efforts to increase its representation in parliament.

As to the recent admission from Mugabe, on the state of food supplies in the country (qv 18/3), an MDC spokesman indicated that to stave of hunger the country needed to import 1.5m tonnes of maize. – **GDN page 17 C7** –

Headline – ***Enough said in Zimbabwe*** - as to the voice of protest of 'the little man' against the Mugabe regime the word is out all over the country. *Zvakwana* – the sign of defiance is everywhere.

With the meaning 'enough is enough' the common man shows, through scrawled signs on street corners, printed on clothes and even written on clothes pegs the Zimbabwean people are showing open defiance of the current regime.

According to this writer, this Shona word describes a “network of ordinary people who are encouraging Zimbabweans across the country to get up, stand up and speak out” about the issues confronting them. – **Dylan Matthews New Internationalist 3/05 – The Editor page 24 C7 –**

## APRIL

### Sun 3

Headline – *Journalists still in Zimbabwe cells* – once again the media’s interest the countries affairs has brought work for the lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa who is closely associated with Andrew Meldrum (qv). On this occasion her legal talents are required to free two Daily Telegraph journalists from police cells.

The two, T Harndens aged 37 chief foreign correspondent and the photographer J Simmande aged 46, have been detained in the small town of Norton which is 25 miles north west of Harare. The police say that they were detained for not having the correct accreditation papers to cover the recent elections.

According to the journalist’s lawyer they are being held in contravention of Zimbabwe’s legal code. Legal rules laid down by parliament, state that the accused must be brought before the courts within 48 hours. Ms Mtetwa will argue that Norton police failed to do this, therefore her clients must be freed. – **Sunday Telegraph page 2 C 5 –**

Headline – *Mugabe vows to eradicate opposition after observers endorse elections* – as the make up of the next parliament becomes known - **Zanu PF 78, MDC 41, Independent 1**, the endorsement of the South African observer team, Morgan Tsvangirwa’s not to mount a legal challenge and coming constitutional changes, by 2008 there will be no way that the opposition can challenge for the president’s job.

With a bleak future, for this model of opposition, the fear is that a more militant – ever violent challenge – will bring instability to the country. – **ditto, page 28 C5 –**

Headline – *Wife of imprisoned MP defeated by ‘rigged poll’* – on a more personal note a ‘stand in candidate’ – the wife of the detained R Bennet – is perplexed by her defeat. In normality, the constituency of Chimanimania, in eastern Zimbabwe, has voters roll that numbers about 4, 000. According to the figures, released this time, her defeat was by as many as 6, 000 votes.

Whilst not particularly concerned for herself – for her there would be no joy in the necessary move to Harare – she felt sorry for those who had worked so hard on her behalf.

By regaining this seat Zanu PF, it would seem, have won the final grudge match with R Bennet of the MDC. A parliamentary committee had sentenced the sitting MP for the last 4 years to 12 months hard labour. His crime – pushing over Zanu PF’s P Chinamasa in the Chamber. – **ditto page 28 C6 –**

#### **Mon 4**

Headline – *Mark Thatcher refused visa by US* – the long known plans of one of the ‘principals’ in the failed attempt to topple the government of Equatorial Guinea to join his family in the United States will not happen.

Authorities in Washington say his application to enter the country has been refused because of his conviction in a Cape Town Court (qv). As to his next move – there is a hope for a family home in a European country, where his American wife will join him. His children will continue to be educated at their present school in the USA. Washington officials say that he can re apply for a visa in two years. – **GDN page 3 C1**

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*Gloating Mugabe vows to rule till he is 100* – despite many of the countries pressure groups, the National Constitutional Assembly, Zimbabwe Election Support Network and the lecturer J Makumbe, voicing concerns at the numbers who had been allowed to vote and other issues the president sees no bar to his presidency for at least another 19 years.

According to the police the two Sunday Telegraph journalists (qv 3.4) will make their first appearance in court imminently. – **GDN page 14, C1 –**

#### **Tues 5**

Headline – *Journalists’ bail order blocked* – Zimbabwean prosecutors blocked a magistrates order granting bail to Sunday Telegraph correspondent Toby Harden and photographer Julian Simmonds, accused of working without permission. – **Reuters –**

Leading Article, **Life under Mugabe**, “There are few grounds to be optimistic about Zimbabwe’s elections. “ with his two thirds majority in parliament there will be no way of stopping, the then 87 year old, Mugabe, from securing the presidency for a forth period.

The abuse of his own people and those arriving to cover the elections, Simmonds and Harden, the manipulation of the voting rolls and the decisions who could and could not vote were bad enough. However the acceptance of the results from other African observer teams – South Africa – bodes badly for a resurgence of Africa as a whole.

Perhaps a report on the web log of the Sokwanele civic action support group will give a more authentic idea of feelings “Cry beloved Africa for the crimes against humanity perpetrated on her people.” – **GDN page 21 C1 -**

Headline – *‘The dictator id far from fading’* - “[Despite] the high turn out during rallies the votes cast this year are less than those recorded during the 2000 parliamentary elections. A possible explanation might lie in the number of people ‘turned away’”

In the view of this paper, with six polls conducted since independence this current trend of voting patterns goes against the norm. “We remain sceptical until convincingly proven to the contrary.” – **Editorial, Standard 3.4** –

“To say the election results ‘reflect the free will of the people’ of Zimbabwe, as the South African government’s observer has done .. makes the point that the Zanu PF government was always going to win the election.”

In the view of this paper they were always likely to do so because of fears of the government, in Pretoria, as to the consequences for their own regime if there was instability on their northern border.

The question now “is an MDC government, as distant as it may seem is now the worst that could happen to Zimbabwe? Could the situation in Zimbabwe get any worse than it is now?” – **Editorial, Business Day 4/4 - The Editor ditto page 22 C 7** –

### **Wed 6**

Headline – *Zimbabwe poll flawed, says Straw* – speaking in the House of Commons the British foreign secretary condemned the outcome of the recent parliamentary elections in the country, and especially the non critical approach of the African continents observer teams.

“There is strong evidence they do not reflect the free democratic will of the Zimbabwe people ... the election process was seriously flawed.” - **GDN page 15 C 3** –

### **Thurs 7**

Letters – [1] **Paula C Yates, Wadhurst East Sussex**, the basis of this current crisis – if in fact there is one – in Zimbabwe following the recent elections is just the emergence from the ‘colonial inheritance’ the 1970 – 80’s civil war that the Mugabe regime inherited.

Where this regime went wrong was not to tackle the issue of land reform sooner. If anything the most ‘damage to the people of Zimbabwe is being done by the imposition of economic sanctions by the international community.

[2] **Toyln Agebetu the Ligali Organisation** reference to the damage done to the continent of Africa, after elections in Zimbabwe, are nothing as compared to the damage done by the ‘notables’ of the international community.

Western government officials are only too ready to curry favour with African leaders if it will ensure business contracts to keep workers in employment. This is usually secured



with the payment of bribes to African leaders. At the same time the western world's leaders – Bush Putin and Blair et al “all stand accused of representing a mockery of the very democracy you claim is denied the Zimbabwean electorate.” – **GDN page 25** –

### **Fri 8**

Headline – *Mugabe slips past EU ban* - as world leaders gather in Rome, for the funeral of the Pope, the Zimbabwean president once again defied the travel ban imposed on him and members of his regime as the world turns its back on this oppressive regime.

The practising Roman Catholic president slipped into an Italian airport and went to his country embassy in Rome. Whilst in the country he is expected to hold talks with members of the business country here. – **GDN page 14, C 4** –

Headline – *Mugabe opponents allege fraud* – according to a spokesman for the opposition Movement for Democratic Change a ‘massive fraud’ was carried out on the Zimbabwean people in the recent election.

The ‘inflation of the votes cast’ was especially prevalent in the rural areas – Nyanga district, government officials said shortly after the polls had closed that a total of 13, 896 ballot papers had been cast. However an examination of the final results showed that Zanu PF 12, 612: 9, 360 MDC. Where did the extra 8, 000 extra votes come from? – **ditto page 17, C 7** –

### **Sat 9**

Headline – *Reporters braced for Zimbabwe jail terms* – despite the influence of B Mtetwa (qv 3.4) it is likely that the Daily Telegraph journalists Harden and Simmonds will serve a custodial sentence after abusing their tourist visas.

Following their appearance in Norton's magistrate court, following their arrest on 31/3, evidence was offered that photographs were taken at a polling station – a breach of their tourist visa. In evidence Mtetwa who established that the witness polling official - could not say definitively who was taking photographs challenged state witnesses.

As to the penalties faced by the two opinions is divided. Jail time, of two years or immediate deportation. Whichever option is adopted the authorities in Zimbabwe are determined to make an example of the two. Their message to the world's media – stay out of the country. To the internal media the message is a warning not to work against the state. – **GDN page 20 C 1** –

Headline – *On the Run, Again* - the one time soldier – then draft dodger – and now an exiled journalist - in Smiths fight against the nationalists Angus Shaw (qv 19/2) explains himself. – **GDN Weekend page 34 – 39**

## Thurs 14

Headline – *Zimbabwe buys six fighter jets* – unspecified about the origin of the purchase, or make, the aircraft are thought to be the K-8 advanced jet trainer. This type of plane is a Chinese copy of the British Hawk – which was supplied to Harare by the Thatcher government upon Independence in 1980. Sales of spare parts for the aging Hawks were stopped in 2000, by the then Labour government because of human rights abuses by the Harare regime.

Mugabe made the announcement of the purchase on state radio. At the same time the president again attacked Britain as “this enemy country.” The broadcast also contained a warning for the whites, some 20, 000, who remain in the country. He called on his supporters to wrestle away from this group the country’s national resources – land. With his two thirds majority at the recent general election Mugabe said, “the nation had mobilised through the ballot box to repulse imperialism. – **GDN page 18 C1** –

## Fri 15

Headline – *UK journalists acquitted* – Tony Harden and Julian Simmonds, the Sunday Telegraph journalists held in Zimbabwe on charges of working without permission during last month’s election, were acquitted and released yesterday. They still face charges of violating immigration laws. – **AP** –

## Sat 16

Headline – *Zimbabwe expels journalists after 14 days in jail* – the drawn out experiences of the Britain’s Daily Telegraph media types has ended with their imminent arrival in South Africa.

Released, as the state had no evidence that they were anything other than tourists, the magistrate – N Diza – gave the two the “benefit of the doubt” over their alleged violation of the country’s visa laws. They were then handed over to the immigration authorities.

As to the wider implications for journalists – both nationals and those from overseas – a need to tighten the rules is evident. If the Mugabe government want to clampdown, as they did when they introduced the Law and Order Maintenance Act [see page 95] then the subsequent Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Aippa] will have to be revalued. – **GDN page 20, C1** –

Headline – *New regime, same abuses* – protesting, in Harare? against the recent elections the pressure group Women of Zimbabwe Arise [Woza] were attacked by the police.

In the capitals Unity Square 250 protesters were once again, as has previously happened with the group Women of Zimbabwe [see page 217 et al], were subject to indiscriminate

arrest. Were they abused for not moving away from approaching police vehicles fast enough, as the police maintain, or because several women lay down in front of these police vans in protest? In any event they were detained overnight in Harare's Central police station.

According to K Olaniyan, of Amnesty International's Africa Programme, "this is the fourth time WOZA activists have been arrested this year, simply engaging in peaceful protest. – **The Big Issue, page 4** –

### **Sun 17**

Headline – ***President Mugabe to add two years to term*** – with his 78 parliamentary seats the leading Zanu – PF leader is considering the implications of amending the constitutional, something that was promised before the vote.

Up for discussion, among the party hierarchy, would be laws to allow this presidential term to run till 2010 – therefore making this current term for Mugabe seven years rather than the usual five years. A second consideration could be the reintroduction of a second chamber, the Senate, which was turned down by the people's vote in 2000. An advantage for the president would be to 'kick upstairs' troublesome members of his own party. **IOS page 23, C 8** –

### **Tues 19**

Headline – ***Mugabe turns back on west and looks east*** – sourced, as being products of China the military fighters bought while the president defied an European Union travel ban (qv 14/4), provided a fly past on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the nation of Zimbabwe.

Speaking to a crowd of between 8, 000 – 40, 000 in Harare's central stadium and on state television Mugabe said "We have turned east, where the sun rises and turned our back to the west where the sun sets." Of the election result – "We made our democracy and we owe it to ourselves, not to anyone, least of all Europeans. Until we beat them on the battlefield, Britain and her kith and kin here would not concede voting rights to Africans."

Of course an alternative view was offered, from the crowd - anonymously – "What have we got from the Chinese? Bad quality goods, busses that break down and a badly built stadium. We are hungry, food is short. We need to rebuild our ties with the west, whether Mugabe admits it or not. We are not celebrating this independence anniversary. We are just surviving."

Quotable criticism, from M Tsvangaria – "The 25 years merely register a period of sustained economic decline. We have nothing to show for it except overwhelming poverty, a systemic loss of our basic freedoms and a national crisis." – **GDN page 12 C3**

### Sat 30

Headline – *Zimbabwe fuel and food crisis deepens* – now that the election is over there is – from the Mugabe regime – no attempt to hide the desperate situation that the city dwellers face. The lines outside the petrol stations, for the little fuel that is available, grow ever longer.

As the Harare authorities admit that they are short of 1. 2m tonnes of maize, which will have to be imported, the ongoing lack of foreign currency available is limiting the supply of chemicals needed to purify `drinking water.

An admittance, that the ongoing seizure of white owned farms has seen the quality of the tobacco crop diminishes to 70% of the output in 2000. According to experts much of the blame is due to the value of the currency. As of this time USA\$! will buy Z\$ 6, 114. On the ‘black market’ – USA\$1 – Z\$ 17, 000. – **GDN page 20 C1** –

## MAY

### Tues 10

Headline – *Mugabe attacks continue* – a recent report, by Amnesty International, has highlighted no let up in the government’s campaign to clamp down on people protest. Despite its consolidation of power – the tightening of its grip in parliament following the 3/05 election – “recent incidents of arbitrary arrest, assaults and intimidation have raised fears for the safety of individual defenders ... of the human rights situation in Zimbabwe.

Of the most recent concerns was the protest, by the group Women of Zimbabwe Arise (qv 16/4). Individuals from Harare based protest had, according to the report, been denied proper legal representation, suffered verbal and physical abuse while held in police custody and denied food and water while being detained. – **GDN page 17, C2** –

### Sat 14

Headline – *Police takes land post* – The Zimbabwe president, Robert Mugabe, has appointed Didymus Mutasa the head of the secret police, to oversee the controversial land redistribution programme. – **AP** –

### Mon 16

Headline – *Zimbabwe coup suspects freed* - the high security prison, in Harare – home to S Mann (qv) and other members of the alleged plot to topple the government of an oil rich state in west Africa, is 62 inmates lighter as of this time.

The freed 62, who were South African nationals, were jailed for violating immigration laws 14 months ago. – **GDN page 17, C 4** –

### **Fri 20**

Headline – *Archbishop calls for strong leader to oust Mugabe* – on route, as a possible winner of the Robert Burns humanitarian award, Archbishop P Ncube of Bulawayo had strong words for the parliamentary opposition party.

The fearsome Roman Catholic cleric called, although he did not mention the MDC by name, for the party to give strong leadership that would lead to the overthrow of Mugabe and his oppressive regime.

“It is naïve to think that this murderous regime will allow itself to be voted out of office by democratic elections. It is naive to think that people will rise up without strong leadership.” – **GDN page 18, C 7** –

### **Sat 21**

Headline – *As country heads for disaster, ... calls for the return of white farmers* – or so G Gono the governor to the country’s central bank proposed. The way forward, to bring the country out of economic decline, would allow farmers an ‘uninterrupted tenure of five of 10 years.’ There would also be a guarantee that the authorities would evict anyone who made an illegal claim to the land.

From the high point of 2000, when 4, 500 white owned farms, as of this time there are about 450 still producing essentials. There was no immediate comment from president Mugabe, who – just a few short days ago – said that he would allow international food aid to be provided the donors did not involve themselves in the politics of the country.

At the same time as this controversial announcement, which a spokesman for the campaign group Justice For Farmers [Jag] said that “this suggestion that farmers can come back is an admission of their failure, but I don’t know anyone who would take them up on their offer,” more economic gloom was forthcoming.

Such is the state of the financial system that the value of the \$Z has been devalued by 31%, as the importation of luxury goods was prohibited. [*The latest figure available to this diarist show that against the \$USA I will purchase \$Z 5, 300 (18/7/04)*], which is still not enough to cure Zimbabwe’s problems. However, on the ‘black market, \$USA 1: Z\$ 25, 000, 0.55p pounds [English].

Eighteen percent of Black South Africans, who responded to a survey, believe Mr Mugabe is ruling badly. – **GDN page 1 C 1** –

### **Tues 24**

Headline – *Police in Zimbabwe arrest 9, 000 traders* – the streets of Harare, and its associated townships Chitungwiza, Dzivarasekwa and Tafare, as well as other major cities like Bulawayo were turned into battlefields as the police and military descended in force to arrest street traders.

The need, by the people, to sell almost anything sellable, was essential for them to live in a country that's economic crisis is becoming unstable day by day. This is even more essential if you are of the opinion that Zanu PF is the party hope.

With a heavy handed force the authorities were systematically destroying the soap box stalls that line the capitals pavements. With so many arrests Harare's jails are over crowded with traders trying to finance their families survival.

The crackdown is also aimed at stamping out the illegal trade in foreign currency. Following the recent 31% devaluation of the Zimbabwean dollar (qv 21/5) the official exchange Zimbabwe to USA is Z\$ 9,000: 1\$USA. 0. 54p [English]. On the 'black market' the rate is \$1: 27, 000 \$Z.

There was also anger among the traders, in what is described by M Tsvangaria, as Zimbabwe being 'mortgaged to the Chinese'. With strong business links to the regime (qv 19/4) has been allowed to flood the market with a range of shoddy goods to the detriment of homegrown soapbox traders. - **GDN page 17 C 1** –

### **Wed 25**

As if the people of Harare's townships are not suffering enough (qv 24/5) the authorities have decided to demolish the dwellings that squatters occupy away from the city center.

Operation Marambatsvini – drive out the rubbish – is, according to a spokesman for the Movement for Democratic Change, a way to provoke a massive confrontation on the streets. With this engineered chaos the government could impose a state of emergency before the tattered state of the economy leads to riots in the street.

The line from the Zanu – PF government, for this action as – as well as the removal of now 10, 000 illegal stalls (qv) – is that the capital has 'lost its glow.' It is planned to have the illegal structures gone by 20/6. – **GDN page 16 C 3** –

### **Fri 27**

Headline – *UK 'helping to strip Africa of health staff'* – a report by researchers from Tooting hospital's school of medicine appearing in the Lancet medical journal says that the NHS is flouting the restriction.

Figures show that in 2003 2, 825 medical personnel were granted work permits. In contrast, from south of the Limpopo 5, 880 medics came to work in Britain. – **GDN page 9 C1** –

## Tues 31

Headline – *Thousands homeless as ... police raze shanty communities* - continuing Operation Marumbatsvini (qv 27/5) the authorities have destroyed the shanty towns that were springing up in around many of Zimbabwe's towns and cities.

As many as 1, 000 homes were destroyed, by flame thrower and bulldozer, in an area of Harare known as the Hatfield Extension. It is estimated at least 10, 000 people were effectively made homeless. This figure includes 5, 000 children; many orphaned by the Aids virus.

The motivation for 'the clearances,' according to Mugabe – speaking on 25/5- was to "rid the cities of havens for illicit and immoral practices ... make way for a more salubrious environment." – **GDN page 15 C1** –

## JUNE

### Wed 1

The number of arrests of people made homeless after a large number of squatter homes were destroyed in Zimbabwe has reached 20, 000. – **Radio 2 15. 00** –

### Thurs 2

Headline – *Mugabe allows UN to increase food aid* – under severe restrictions the United Nations World Food Programme workers will be allowed back in to the country to distribute much needed food to the hungry.

Expelled, earlier this year (qv 10/05) to prevent a too closer look at Zimbabwe's food stocks, this time there will be no general hand out of aid to the public. The WFP, who say 3 – 4m people will need food in the coming months, will only directly distribute food to food feeding programmes, home based Aids care and work schemes. – **GDN page 18, C1**

### Tues 7

Headline – *Mugabe police will 'ruthless' with strikers* – continuing Operation Marumbatsvini (qv 31/5), has let to the emergence of a new pressure group to challenge the authority of Mugabe's rule of law.

The Broad Alliance has, with the support of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, urged workers to stay away from work from 9 – 10/6. Responding to this challenge the capitals assistant police commissioner, W Bvudzijena, has promised police actions will be of a robust nature.

With now at least 30, 000 illegal street traders under arrest and a UN estimate of 200, 000 of the urban poor made homeless as a result of a drive to punish those vendors without street selling licenses, there is potential for mass disruption.

As the churches organise their responses to the police action an American faces deportation after taking pictures in the town of Mutare – 250 miles east of Harare. Describing police actions in the Manicaland province church leaders said they were “shocked and numbed by the utter havoc and destruction” by the police actions on 5/6. In one instance, homes of nursing mothers and mothers with babies were left among the smoking ruins of their shacks.

The unpaid geography lecturer H S Gilmore aged 68, the US citizen, has been in custody since 27/5, was fined Z\$100, 000/ 6 pounds [English] for entering the country illegally. For the crime of filming police actions in the town he was fined Z\$200, 000 and told he would be deported. – **GDN page 12 C5** –

### **Fri 10**

Headline – *Mugabe defends the razing of the shanty towns* – speaking to newly elected members of parliament, minus the 41 representatives of the opposition – as a protest against police activities in the townships – the president the moves were essential to crack down on illegal traders and clean up the urban areas.

As to the call for a 2 day general strike, made by the Broad Alliance (qv 7/6), and latterly by the MDC – for which there was criticism for their “lack of dynamic leadership.” The comments were made by the chairman of the Combined Harare Residents organisation, one of the organisers of the protest. – **GDN page 19, C1** –

Leader Comment, **Sinking into the mire**, this current “suppression on the streets in Harare and other urban centres” brings to mind the Smith era – and before – of where a black person may live and work. To outsiders this “Get Rid of Rubbish” campaign, by which the state action is refereed to by the president is “taking the country back to the era of Rhodesian pass laws.”

Such actions are seen, in the wider world and elsewhere, as a punishment for people “who voted against them in the March elections.” Long term consequences – an end of the hope that the ‘sensible wing’ of Zanu – PF and the moderate MDC could – after the death of the president – “could agree” on a new start for the country. Rather with the “next generation of the leaders of the ruling party are fighting over who should inherit coercive and predatory state.”

“A combination of even worse economic decline and serious African pressure from outside might change the situation. But one would not wish the first on the suffering Zimbabwean people and of the second there is as yet no sign. – **ditto page 29** –



## Sat 11

Headline – *Oust Mugabe ...* - with the recent war in Iraq to remove its tyrannical leader an argument could be made that Britain and America should once again combine their military forces to remove Mugabe.

A prime ministerial admission that the world is a 'better place' without Saddam Hussain was the justification, for the American led invasion, after the original aims – to prevent the of the deployment of Weapons of Mass Destruction – was first mooted. There were no WDM's to deploy.

Both countries offered no threat to countries outside the region, both had a population that were starving and were continually punished because of they're political beliefs.

As to the logistics - a few battalions could see an end to Mugabe – his support would go. Elections within 3 months would mean troops out. Some would see the moves as an extension of imperialism but the those that complained – S Africa would do nothing in the end. – **Diary, an extract, GDN page 15 C2** –

Headline – *Mugabe opponents admit strike failure* – as the police promised (qv 7/6) tear gas was deployed in the Chitungwiza township south of the countries capital Harare. In a statement from the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Union's [ZCTU] and the Broad Alliance both groups admitted that the 2 day general strike had attracted 'minimal response.'

The chairman of the Broad Alliance, Lovemore Madhuka, called on the opponents of the current regime to ever increasing acts of defiance. The aim of such acts would see the Zanu PF regime turn more violent. This in turn would, he hoped, cause the international community to increase its efforts to oust Mugabe. – **ditto, page 20, C1** –

## Sun 12

Headline – *Zimbabwe undercover: how Mugabe is burning opponents out of their homes* – an eyewitness account, *some elements of the British media are banned from reporting here*, from Killany squatter camp Bulawayo. – **IOS page 20 C 1-**

## Thurs 16

News report – an under cover reporter, N Connery, enters the country as a 'tourist' as journalists are banned from working there. His report is centered on the destruction caused by the forced eviction of shanty - town dwellers that have grown around Harare and other major cities. – **ITN 18. 30** –

## Fri 17

News report – in a follow up report Connery travels, still posing as a tourist, to a containment camp that has been set up by the authorities to house those who have been evicted from the cities. There he found that there was a lack of basic facilities, the and the residents were unsure of their future prospects.

Back in the London studio there was a show of how British industry was linked to the well being of the economy of Zimbabwe – to the tune of 30m pounds [English]. – **ITN 18.30** –

## Sat 18

Headline – *Mugabe ex – ally slams shanty town razing* – the once favoured information minister, Jonathan Moyo, who was sacked in 2004 (qv 29/11) for criticising his president's choice of vice president has attacked Mugabe's determination to rid the streets of illegal traders and the homes they lived in.

Speaking in a hotel in Harare, where he was barracked by members of the audience, the recently re-elected member of parliament – now standing as an Independent – said that the government's action was linked to a power struggle within Zanu – PF. **GDN page 18 C8** –

## Tues 21

Headline – *UN to look into Harare purges* - The UN is to send a special envoy to Zimbabwe to investigate a government crackdown on urban squatter settlements that aid workers say has left 20, 000 people homeless. – *Reuters* –

## Wed 22

News report – the ongoing secret filming (qv 16/6) tells of how president Mugabe is now cracking down on the production of food by those who live in urban areas. They have been banned from growing, even for their own consumption, on pain of having the police or security forces come destroy what is in the ground.

As to the continuing destruction of squatter homes, and the forced removal of the now homeless people, Bishop Ncube of Bulawayo and a fierce opponent of Mugabe said that he was prepared to lead a demonstration of protesters. He was not concerned that, in doing so, he may face being shot at.

Back in London the foreign secretary, J Straw, called on those of Africa's leaders who had any influence on the policy in Zimbabwe, here he was talking about Mr Mbeki, to appeal for restraint. The Labour politician also mentioned of uninviting the South African leader to the G8 meeting if no pressure was brought to bear on his neighbour's actions. **ITN 18. 30.**

## Thurs 23

Headline – *Detainees on hunger strike* – in at least seven detention centers spread across the UK, and known to include nine women, have refused food from early on 22/6. They indicate that food will be ingested again from 24/6.

Their action was prompted by the conditions inside the detentions. They were further motivated by the attitude of the staff. The Zimbabweans allege cases of physical and or verbal abuse. – **GDN page 10, C1** –

## Fri 24

Headline – *Children die in Harare crackdown* – as international condemnation, from such bodies as Amnesty International, the Geneva based Centre for Housing Rights and Evictions [Cohre] and 20 NGO's, for the recent actions (qv), the first fatalities have been reported as a result of the ongoing demolition of peoples homes.

There were two deaths, both of them children, who were among those being made homeless from the Chitungwiza township. The two children aged 18 months and 1 year old, as they were hit by falling masonry as the family home was destroyed. They are among the, estimated 300, 000 who have been evicted countrywide. **GDN page 19 C1** –

## Sat 25

Headline – *Home office reprieves Mugabe opponent facing deportation* – at the last minute government officials have had a change of heart. Seen, *by this author, as a consequence of the detained hunger strikers (qv 23/6)* C Kulinge will stay in this country. Whilst the move is not only a temporary measure the well being of the personal advisor to the leader of the Movement For Democratic Change can be assured.

With the continuing destruction of homes, in the Harare region as part of Operation Drive Out Scum (qv) the calls for the intervention of 'concerned bodies' has been rubbished by a member of the African Union. Calling the moves, in the capital, a good reason to demolish slums a way to prevent the capital's deterioration. – **GDN page 3 C1** –

Headline – *Zimbabwe homeless crisis* – with the ongoing events, throughout the country, the plight of the school children are a major concern of one Zimbabwe run housing group. The unnamed group, at its own request, voices its fears for the numbers of Aids related patients who are without their regular supply of anti retroviral drugs.

On the record, a spokesperson for Homeless International charity, Becky Telford said, "For many people the real tragedy had only just begun. Being without food or possessions, and in some cases, anti retroviral drugs they need to survive, is a nightmare that very few can imagine. – **The Big Issue page 2** –

## Sun 26

Headline – *Clarke urged not to deport Zimbabweans* – despite the respite for detainee C Kulinji (qv 25/6) it is still in the mind of the home secretary to send back – in what a fellow member of parliament said would be an "outrageous decision" to send home as many as 100 Zimbabwean nationals facing such a threat.

It is a well documented fact that those opposed to the Mugabe regime could face imminent arrest and torture on landing back in the country. – **IOS page 2 C 2** –

News report – an interview with Kate Hoey MP, who illegally entered Zimbabwe as a school teacher, and saw first hand the destruction caused during the destruction of the alleged ‘shanty towns.’ The former Labour minister dismissed the claim that the clearance also involved homes of war veterans and supporters of the ruling party with the comment that they were of minor importance. – **R4 The World Tonight 22. 00** –

### **Mon 27**

Headline – *Mugabe fears ‘spies’ from UK* – whether it is 41 or 100 [government/detainee hunger strikers] according to the Movement of Democratic Change the Harare authorities fear that it is British intelligence that is encouraging the sending back of those who have fled Mugabe.

“This is a paranoid state that views those deported from London as spies trained by the Blair government to carry out espionage.” – P T Nyathi an MDC spokesman. The response from a government official – “This is preposterous, but for a government like this with its paranoid tendency, it is very likely”.

The promised investigation, by the United Nations (qv 21/6) has flown into Harare. As a representative of Kofi Annan, Anna Tibijuka, is there to report on the recent ‘forced removal’ and destruction of the homes of some 300, 000 to 1.5m people. – **GDN page 8 C1** -

News report – there are 51 Zimbabwean nationals on hunger strike, all of which face deportation says the home secretary. – **ITN 18. 30** –

### **Tues 28**

Headline – *Blair refuses to halt Zimbabwe deportations* – as the numbers, who await that fate, are confirmed at 57 and not the 100 previous estimates have been.

In a lively debate in the House of Commons home secretary C Clarke rebuffed remarks that called for the ‘sending in of the troops’ as had been in another country which was [a] ruled by a mad despotic tyrant who had killed thousands of his own people and [b] has no weapons of mass destruction – aka Iraq. In reply Mr Clarke indicated, as had the foreign secretary, that a solution to the problem should be sought through the mediation of the African Union. – **GDN page 2 C 6** –

Headline – *UN envoy begins demolition inquiry* – within the 24 hours that the envoy has been here (qv 27/6) work has begun.

Taking an overview of the current crisis the London based think tank Chatham House, events are more complex than the British or the African Union was prepared to admit. To criticise Mugabe ‘played into his hands’ – as to the white man being his usual domineering self. However the AU should not treat this long process as a minor

problem. As to the levels of violence, in this view he felt the level of violence had gone down since the very high levels during the 2000 election.

***To return is death*** – indicates **Rodric Chipezeze 29**, a former government worker in the ministry of information. First fled in 2001 and returned in 3/03, to return illegally held information about the level of violence Buhera. He only returned the evidence after threats were made against his family.

With a number of the tapes returned to the authorities and family members freed from detention once again, in 6/03, he left the country. On arrival in Britain evidence of torture were discovered – coughing up blood, a swollen head and a body covered in bruising, was documented at two London hospitals.

***Detained hunger striker to continue protest*** - **Ashley Tshabangu 23** who is on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of her hunger strike and a resident of Yarl's Wood Detention Center would, as would the other 59 women held there be continuing to refuse food as a protest at their impending return to the country.

Details – witnessing the immolation of her mother at home, by members of Zanu PF in 2002, and then working for her mother's employer – a white farmer. However the farmer had to leave the land, outside Bulawayo, when it was seized as part of Mugabe's policy. Offered an air ticket, after fleeing, with her employee to South Africa, she came to England to be with family members.

***Mother told to flee or be killed*** – **Anne** detained for three and a half years and just released. Details – working for a large timber company in the country - they owned 5 estates – her troubles began when the president's policy of asset seizure began. As an MDC supporter, one who mixed – through her work – in government circles 'Anne' became a target. A nighttime raid on the home she shared with mum and her daughter where violence was threatened by the six armed crashed through the front door convinced her to leave. – **ditto page 14** –

Letters, [1] **Gleynys Kinnock MEP** Copresident of the African Caribbean, Pacific EU parliamentary assembly – for Operation Clean Up in Zimbabwe read 'forced removals' during the apartheid era in South Africa. Also the conditions, set by government in London, to apply for entry into the EU are too stringent. Allowance should be made as "to the circumstances in the country they have escaped from."

[2] **Kwane Ocollo, London** – compares the reaction of those that call for the African Union to intervene in Zimbabwe, to the many calls for the intervention, of Britain and the USA, to stop Israel destroying the work of the Palestinians - who are after all – only building on there own land. – **ditto page 25** –

"It defies belief " .. "it is hard to conceive of a country where opposition symperthisers have more compelling grounds for fear." – **extract Editorial 27/6, Independent** –

The nationwide crackdown was evidence of “the rise of the police state and a breakdown of social order.” – **D Muleya, Zimbabwe Independent** – A counter to this argument – “chaotic urbanisation” had placed “unbearable strain. Zimbabwe has only destroyed illegal structures and has plans to put in place legal and better housing. – **O Mazombwe, Sunday Mail, Zimbabwe – The Editor ditto page 26, C1** –

News item - refugee and former detainee, **Lazarus Banda**, has lost his right to stay in the country after losing his battle in the London courts. In two Months he will be returned to Zimbabwe.

As one of the 57 hunger strikers, he will continue with the campaign. He will stay at a priory and sing with the church choir. As to his home in Harare it has been destroyed as part of OPCU. – **ITN 18. 30** –

### **Wed 29**

Headline – ***Africa must share blame for Mugabe*** – this is the belief of J Straw, the foreign secretary. In a wide ranging interview, that covers Britain’s relationship with the EU and the forthcoming G8 summit, the former student leader/activist says

“It’s disappointing African leaders are unwilling to speak out ... that’s bad for the people directly affected. It’s also bad for Africa’s reputation.”

As to the role of the South African president, Thabo Mbeki, he urged the authorities in Pretoria to have a change of strategy. “I don’t think name calling necessarily advances what one is trying to do.” – **GDN page 10 C1** –

Headline – ***Jailed Zimbabwe MP tells of ordeal*** – as a ‘stand in ‘ candidate at the last general election, at least she failed to retain the seat in the family name Heather Bennet (qv 3.4) now at least have her husband by her side.

The MDC supporting MP, Roy Bennet has been granted early release from his 4 year prison sentence under a good behaviour scheme. His crime – pushing the Zanu PF, or was it striking? – the justice minister P Chinamasa in 10/04. The attack happened when the minister referred to the MP’s forebears as “thieves and murderers.”

Of his time in detention the freed man, who hopes to stay politically active in the human rights field, told of his eight months of hell. He tells of being issued with faeces stained prison garments and hearing other inmates suffering violence metered out by prison guards. – **ditto page 13 C1** –

Leader Comment, **Right to remain**, two thoughts from the clergy the Archbishop of Canterbury is “deeply unsatisfactory nature of our asylum system is not restricted to the way it handles Zimbabwe.” Meanwhile in the view of Archbishop P Ncube of Bulawayo his president is following a Pol Pot pesantification policy under which

opposition supporters ... are being driven back into the countryside even if there are no crops to support them.”

There is some support for the Straw/Blair argument on asylum seeker deportation numbers having fallen from before 11/04. Before a moratorium 3, 295. This number fell to 2,050 as limits were imposed.

The sticking point is the ‘getability’ of that all important visa. “No one can come to Britain without a visa, but no one can get a visa if they are intending to claim asylum. Also disputed are the claims that ‘returnees’ will not face torture or death on return.

With more than 100 failed asylum seekers in detention. ”It is time to reintroduce a deportation ban and allow existing failed asylum seekers a temporary right to remain. The risk of sending them back ... are just to unacceptably high.” – **ditto page 23** –

### **Thurs 30**

News report – locally living ‘**Lucy**’ and **Ashleigh MacMaster** are both living here for a number of years. Both, however, know that they could be returned to Zimbabwe at any time, after failing to win refugee status.

Lucy, who fears death, if returned has enlisted the help of her member of parliament. The Liberal Democrat for Harrogate and Ryedale has said that he will write to the home secretary to stress the danger his constituent would be in, if returned.

Hull living Ashleigh McMaster, daughter of an expelled white farmer, fears a return will see her forced into the army, where abuse of conscripts is prevalent - **Calendar News, ITV 18. 00** –

## **JULY**

### **Fri 1**

Headline – ***Monster of the moment*** – if Operation Clean UP (qv) was anything out of the ordinary – as the media outlets seem to think – there is a case to be made that similar mass movement of disadvantaged people throughout African and other countries is a ‘normal’ occurrence.

From India to Ghana the authorities for whatever reason have moved landless people, squatting on the land. This may be road improvements, the provision of space for a reservoir or just to ‘improve the unsightly area.

Criticism from the west is hard to follow when as colonial masters in these same countries indigenous populations were moved on a whim for their masters say so. Modern moves, in Harare, where the numbers who have lost their homes has varied so



much that they encompass a figure that is well above the number of total residents of Harare.

Perhaps the real culprit is world globalisation, the tearing down of trade barriers, the privatisation of national economics, structural adjustment programmes imposed by the international community through the World Bank and the IMF as a condition for assisting the third world. – **J Vidale environment editor, GDN page 25, C1 -**

News report – the destruction of the ‘Pontfarm’ resettlement camp, outside Harare, after 10 years of occupation. During three day destruction by the authorities 3 fatalities occurred – an infant boy, pregnant women and a bedridden grandmother.

There were questions, by those evicted, to the UN’s envoy A Tibijuka into the squatter camp clearances, which the diplomat could not answer as an orphaned baby was thrust into her arms. – **ITN 18. 30 –**

### **Sun 3**

Headline – ***Tortured and dumped: the fate of those sent home to Mugabe by UK*** – as the political row over returning failed asylum seekers home evidence emerges that to send them back to Harare is to land the refugees in the very danger they fled from in the first case.

Documented evidence, from members of the Zimbabwe Association with the help of a Methodist preacher from the Midlands – Dr M Stenwick – suggests that in recent weeks 10 cases of ‘returnees’ being handed over to the security forces have been documented.

The abuses these people range from a three hour beating at Harare Airport of such severity that the man was rushed to hospital. Forced divulgence of the names of Zimbabwe dissidents, given after an airport beating, then another one when he arrived at his home.

Back in Britain it is now thought that 125 Zimbabwe nationals, awaiting deportation, have joined the hunger strike (qv 23/6). Through the courts moves are being made to prevent K Culinjini (25/6) from being the victim of a forced deportation. – **IOS page 12 C 4 –**

### **Mon 4**

Headline – ***Zimbabwean deportation halted at last minuet*** – with eleven days of hunger strike, and four of those without liquid – failed asylum seeker **Patricia Mukandara aged 26**, evaded deportation.

With a British Airways flight booked Mr Justice Mcombe in the High Court decided that her removal, and that of **S Zondo?** a fellow detainee held in Yarwood Detention Centre stayed their return. The next moves will be that both sides of the dispute will now make

their submissions to the court. The case to stay must be made by 5/7, while the government has 21 days to respond.

Details – Daughter to a white farmer who was killed by Zanu – PF supporters during the land invasions of 2000. Fled to England. Ms Mukandara has been in detention for six months and has beaten three other attempts to deport her. – **GDN page 10 C 5** –

## **Tues 5**

Headline – *Homeless and hopeless: bulldozers carve out a bleak new reality ...* as the Balancing Rocks of Chipenga were once the symbol of a thousand years of Zimbabwe next to these symbols is there modern equivalent.

Epworth, once a home to thousands of those who worked in Harare – 10 miles away, is no more. In recent days this ‘illegal’ squatter camp has been torn down as part of Operation Murambatsvina (qv). Police figures show that all told 22, 000 people have been arrested or had their property confiscated. He death toll has risen to 13, 6 of which have been suicides. Many of the hundreds of those evicted have been housed at a transit camp named Caledonia Farm.

In the capital many want to speak of the opportunities overseas – there are said to be 3 million living abroad – mainly living in South Africa and Britain. Once working they are able to send money back to their relatives, who may not be working as the country has an unemployment rate of 8%.

Rumours of splits in the ruling party are beginning to emerge – though the opposition MDC does not put much store by these moves – when a member of Zanu – PF’s Central Committee, P Mbalekwa, resigned. His comment that “he was perturbed and disturbed” by what he saw.

Despite the recent comments of Thabo Mbeki, that Africa should sort out Africa’s problems, the South African president has had a meeting with Morgan Tsvangaria, who hopes that the G8 summit will put the situation in Zimbabwe on the agenda.

As Mugabe nears a celebration of 10 years marriage to his wife, the only other ‘notable’ Johannesburg resident – Nelson Mandela – has been invited as an “honoured guest” to the celebrations. He has been in the country’s opposition newspaper the Zimbabwean, to stay away. A ‘concerned’ resident’s letter to come would be seen as giving “blessing of the things that are occurring in Zimbabwe,” writes the anonymous resident.

**Economic facts**, as of this date Inflation 144%. Unemployment 80%. Exchange rate Z\$/\$US 9, 000:1 [Official], 25, 000:1 [Black market]. – **GDN page 13** –

Letters, [1] **Dr F Madzvamuto, Dr S Ray London**, challenging Vidal’s plea (qv 1/7) wholesale destruction of an – estimated at 64, 000 family homes – is not just taking place in Harare as a plan to make room for 15, 000 better homes – in Harare but also in

other large cities such as Bulawayo. That OPCU has displaced an estimated 323, 385 people is not just wholesale destruction. It could be argued, it is a case of abuse of their human rights. Protest is right and proper as this type of abuse should not be tolerated. However Zimbabwe is a special case “because it has become symbolic of some African governments to human rights violations in Africa.”

The “African solution for Africa’s problems’ mantra from the AU is in no way condoning Mugabe’s actions. More it is the way that these governments hinder the international community from examining the actions these same authorities.

**[2] J Melby Christian Aid**, “a clear violation of several international conventions that Zimbabwe has ratified.” The actions of the authorities are akin to the ‘forced removals’ so popular with the government in apartheid South Africa.

**[3] R Studwick Bushy Herts**, noted that the clearances began on 25/5 – Africa Day – was not without its poignancy as the “world has been generally silent.” In the West Mugabe has been the ‘disfavour of the month.’ To the people of Zimbabwe he has been “the monster of the month “ for years.

**[4] R Clatworthy, Beverly East Yorkshire**, “a smoke screen” of an article. Responsible governments make alternative provision for its people when changes to living, housing or other changes take place. None of this has happened during these evictions.

There is the use of the argument that the whites’ expulsion and their black employees, from the farms, has made Mugabe unacceptable is unfounded. White farms given to Zanu cronies equals mismanaged farms and poor food production is the answer.

A submission “Mugabe’s actions is to destroy any opposition to his dictatorial rule and reduce the general populace to being peasants and vassals” is the real reason for the president’s unpopularity. – **ditto page 23** –

### **Thurs 7**

Headline – ***Judge urges freeze on deportations to Zimbabwe*** – a second high court judge has joined his colleague (qv 4/7) in a suspension of policy at least till a full high court hearing on 4/8. In effect 70 Zimbabwe nationals are now assured – for at least the next 30 days – of not having to return to what Mr Justice Collins said it was “arguably” unsafe to send them back.

It would appear that a ‘no returns’ policy has been implemented, on the quiet, by officials at the home office. In a second case, before officials at a Refugee Legal Center, hearing the case of two asylum seekers, told a second judge P D Farrall “Returns had been stopped Ma’am.” Before the same tribunal the case of a women deportee was raised. The women had been returned to Zimbabwe after a fax message, from the home office to Securicor – who provided the airport transport – was not passed on from the

firm's office to those responsible for her care. The woman is now "in hiding" in Harare.  
– GDN page 8 C7 –

### Sat 9

Headline – *Hunger strike escalates* – a hunger strike by detained Zimbabweans against deportation the Home office said. Of 99 detainees, 37 are now refusing food, four more than on 4/7. – GDN page 13 C 8 –

### Tues 12

Headline – *Hunger strikers suspend protest* – Zimbabwean hunger strikers yesterday abandoned their protest until the high court rules on forced deportations to the country on 4/8.

Campaigners said that 55 hunger strikers had temporarily suspended their protest against the lifting of a Home Office ban on removals to Zimbabwe after 18 days. – GDN page 6 C 6 –

### Fri 15

Headline – *Home Office halts Zimbabwe deportations* – till after the high court case due on 4/8. The move comes after a third judge, Mr Justice Ouseley, joined his fellow judges Collins and Mcombe (qv 4,7/7) in urging this move.

In this latest case Mr Ouseley argued that in hearing a challenge to a Zimbabwean asylum seeker challenging his deportation, it would not be right and proper to include this case in the forthcoming judicial review.

As of this time the home office say that none of the 37 [57?] Zimbabwean nationals, who staged a recent protest, are refusing food while still in detention. – GDN page 12 C1 –

### Sat 16

Headline – *No work, no schools and the furniture sits outside: this is life in Mugabe's transit camp* – it is if you are one of the 5, 000 'displaced' people who live in the Caledonian transit camp – 10 miles outside Harare.

For this life, one of those forced to flee – from a two roomed brick house in the township of Hatcliffe – Esant Midzi – exits. For those forced to live here, with their possessions scattered around, on the five acre site there is no government provision of electricity or sanitation.

Facilities have evolved – 44 pit latrines for every 114 people. Clean drinking water comes courtesy of Unicef, who takes green water bowsers on site. The United Nations also provide blankets for warmth and plastic sheeting for shack building to the camp.

An estimate, from a delegation of the South African Council of Churches [*see SA Diary 228*] say that 1million people have been made intentionally homeless as part of Mugabe's policy to return opponents to the countryside.

With the authorities in Harare saying that 5, 000 new homes will be ready for occupation within weeks, there was only the foundations of 140 such homes laid out. **The Times page 51 –**

### **Tues 19**

Headline – *Mugabe asks South Africa to bail him out* – intense talks, between members of the two governments have had talks for a substantial loan to be granted so that the Mugabe regime can, at least, feed its people till the middle of 2006.

Well aware that Zimbabwe is on the edge of a financial meltdown, and needs \$360m to purchase maize to feed his people, the president has asked Pretoria for a loan of \$1bn/57m pounds [English] for this and other pressing needs. From president Mbeki's perspective any loan, he is considering a much smaller amount, \$300m - \$500m, even this would not be a direct transfer. Rather it would be given, in grant form, to South African companies who then would supply the Harare administration with maize, petrol and electric power that is needed north of the Limpopo river.

Any loan agreement would be dependent of political reforms, and other measures, being put in place by the Harare regime. Chief among these measures is the resumption of talks between Zanu and the MDC. Also there must be an end to Operation Marumbatsvini.

As Pretoria heralds these moves as a vindication of its policy of an 'African solution to an African problem, much heralded by the South African president, ' there may be a much more simple explanation. After pressure during the recent G8 summit and the "broad international initiative" led by Kofi Anan Mr Mbeki has concluded that positive results are needed in Zimbabwe.

Other concerns, that face Mugabe, are that Zimbabwe faces expulsion from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank organisations as his debts – to these Washington based bodies - reach \$300m.

### **Wed 20**

News report – asylum seeker Ashleigh McMaster (qv 30/6), from Hull, has taken her campaign to stay in this country to London. Armed with a petition of support from those who live in the same village as her and her parents and that of her member of parliament she appealed directly to the home office to grant her a residence order.

Without official permission to stay Ms McMaster knows she will be returned to a life in the Zimbabwean army. There, she claims, she will be open to the abuse and exploitation of a corrupt regime. – **Calendar News 18. 00** -

### **Fri 22**

News report – after the recent inspection tour, of the United Nations special envoy, to the aftermath of Mugabe policy of destruction of illegal squatter homes in Harare and other towns in Zimbabwe, the destruction was condemned. – **ITN 18. 30** –

### **Sat 23**

Headline – ***UN report dams Mugabe slum clearance*** – in 98 pages. Written by A Tibaijuka, the UN's special envoy (qv) concluded that 2.4m people have been affected by Operation Murambatsvini **or** Operation Drive Out Trash **or** Operation Restore Order **or** Operation Tsunami as it is defined by the UN.

Detailing the consequences the report says that 700, 000 people have lost their homes or livelihoods or both, in a humanitarian crisis of “immense proportions.” The clearances were a “disastrous venture.” Of the ethos behind the destruction - “while purported to target illegal dwellings and structures and to clamp down on alleged illicit activities [it] was carried out in an indiscriminate and unjustified manner, with indifference to human suffering, and, in repeated cases, with disregard to several provisions on national and international legal frameworks.”

Comments on the report – a use of “judgmental language .... that demonstrated the inbuilt bias against the operation” – **S Mumbengegwi, Zimbabwe's foreign minister** –

‘That is wonderful, music to my ears’ – **Trudy Stevenson, MDC MP - - GDN page 14, C1** –

### **Mon 25**

Headline - ***Mbeki hints at cash for crisis – torn Zimbabwe*** – with the promise of payment to the International Monetary Fund, of \$300m/172m pounds [English] by the South African government, Mugabe has left on a six day visit to China.

The aim of this trip, even the presidents Air Zimbabwe flight caused all other air traffic to be suspended because of the shortage of fuel throughout the country, is another ‘cap in hand’ for foreign funding. Also there will be a plea for Beijing's United Nations security council representative to block any council condemnation of the destruction of squatter homes destroyed in Murambatsvini (qv).

In return China is expected to require access to Zimbabwe's platinum, which are the second largest in the world. – **GDN page 14C1** –

## Tues 26

Headline – *Mugabe heads east to China* – Zimbabwe’s President Robert Mugabe is due to meet his Chinese counterpart, Hu Jianto, today in Beijing as part of his drive for more aid and investment from China and other Asian countries. – AP –

## Wed 27

Headline – *Mugabe finds succour in Beijing deals* – the Zimbabwean president’s determination to ‘get one over’ on his western critics with his ‘look east policy’ has borne fruit.

Even before this latest mission China has been gaining influence throughout Africa. Since the creation of Zimbabwe and the need for ready customers for its expanding economy China has been there for Mugabe. Over the years the country has supplied hydroelectric generators, training jets for its airforce and help in providing public transport vehicles on the city’s streets. Beijing also has the run of 360 square miles of farmland that has been taken from its white owners.

As to the benefits, from these talks, Hu Jianto, China’s president, has agreed – it is speculated – monetary assistance in reducing Zimbabwe’s triple digit and foreign debts of \$4.5bn/2.5bn pounds [English]. In material gains China has agreed to supply, and build a power plant, supply a 60 seater plane to Harare.

On a more personal note, the Chinese Foreign Affairs University has bestowed an honorary professorship on Mugabe, at the behest of Beijing’s foreign affairs ministry. The honour “is in recognition of the outstanding research and remarkable contribution in the work of diplomacy and international relations.” – Any Yongyu, Communist party secretary Foreign Affairs University – Sceptics will say the award comes as a result of the presidents encouragement of his people to study Mandarin and a liking of Chinese food.

As to the United Nations criticism of Operation Murambatsvini, in its critical report (qv 23/7), the head of Unicef has called on the authorities to halt the destruction in the east of the country. The call comes even as the authorities in Harare claim that the destruction has stopped. Also the agency wants unhindered access to those that have been made homeless. – GDN page 13 C1 -

## Thurs 28

Headline – *Demolitions go on as Mugabe defies UN* – as the bulldozers move on to Porta Farm, on the outskirts of Harare, and continue Operation Murambatswani around the capital, something that is still occurring elsewhere in the country, according to the opposition MDC.

In New York the security council met the UN met to consider the report after Ms Tibaijuka’s 14 day visit to Zimbabwe. Despite five security council members voting

against considering the report from K Anan's representative, who is head of the UN's Habitat housing agency, there were nine members who were prepared to consider the report.

Extracts from the submission, written by according to Mugabe, - someone who had come to Zimbabwe with preconceived ideas – showed the forced evictions constituted “a humanitarian crisis of immense proportions,” and demanded that “the people who have caused this man made disaster be brought to book.” – **GDN page 17 C1** –

Leader Comment, **China and its chums**, “Robert Mugabe is having a whale of a time on his state visit to China.” Being honoured as ‘a familiar and respected old friend of the Chinese people’ – in the words of Hu Jianto.

China's economic clout is “giving succour to a regime that does not deserve it .. a wider strategy ... the pursuit of African markets for its goods and supplies.” Beijing makes much of its policy of non intervention in another's countries policy, as it “rejects outsiders interference in its own.”

By careful use of its veto in the UN, China was hoping that there would be no discussion of the ‘active defence of the indefensible.’ – **ditto page 25 C1** –

“Mrs Tibaijuk has ... just confirmed our earlier fears – her mission has much bigger forces behind it. She is just the public face .... Little did we know she would use UN resources to further Mr Blair's interests.” – **Editorial 28/7 Herald** –

“The government's response to the UN report ... has been to go on the offensive, once again confirming that the only view it will entertain are those that accord with its own. Zimbabwe needs to abandon its empty bravado and bombast and seize the opportunity presented by the UN.” – **Editorial Zimbabwe Standard 25/7, The Editor ditto page 26 C7** –

## AUGUST

### Mon 1

Headline – ***No return to Zimbabwe for farmers*** – there are no plans for the authorities in Harare to return seized white owned farmland after it was taken from them. This was one method, supported by G Gono the chief of the central bank, to improve agricultural production in the country. D Mutasa the land reform and settlement minister dismissed the idea. “The land here is for the black people and we are not going to give it back to anybody.”

A recent World Bank study of Zimbabwe's agricultural sector said the governments land reforms had redistributed 80% of farm land and improved racial distribution of agricultural property, but it had increased poverty.



As an economic sector, the industry now only contributes 40% towards national exports and in only 18% of gross domestic product. Output fell by 3.3% in 2004. Thus 12 million Zimbabweans may face starvation. – **GDN page 12 C 7** –

## **Tues 2**

Headline – *Zimbabwe dollar hits new low* – from both the official and unofficial perspective. On the street US\$1: \$Z 45, 000 a substantial move in both rates (qv 24/5). Going through the official channels, which no bank or corporation do the rate is – US\$1: Z\$1: 17, 000.

As if this economic news was not bad enough, state radio has revealed the fruits of Mugabe’s reward after his recent trip to China (qv 27/7). In total the president came away with \$6m/ 3.4m pounds [English] in food aid, a passenger jet and 100 computers.

It is more than likely his next trip will go south to the other great believer of ‘African solutions to African problems.’ It is almost certain that president Mbeki will make it clear that any financial assistance offered will only come after substantial political and economic reform in Zimbabwe. – **GDN page 13 C3** –

## **Wed 3**

Headline – *Tsvangirai treason charges dropped* – as the leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change was found not guilty, by the courts in 2005 (qv 15/10), so he will now not face a possible death sentence after the government offered no further evidence to the Harare court.

Despite “withdrawing charges before plea” – the words of the public prosecutor Ms F Ziyambi – she did not go into the reason why the decision was made. Others have an explanation. According to the Opposition leaders lawyer, E Matenga, indicated that this second treason charge was dropped “because he never committed a crime, and obviously someone has seen sense. ... Virtually everything in the courts runs on a political basis” said an unnamed lawyer.

Away from the legal system others had an even more pressing reason as to this unexpected move by the Mugabe regime – economic crisis. Comments from the likes of J Makumbe, an academic, see the move as a tentative step to ensure the resumption of Zanu PF and the MDC to try and stabilise the faltering economy. Such efforts are needed if Harare is to receive substantial aid from South Africa, after its poor reward from the presidential trip to China (qv 27/7). – **GDN page 13, C 5** –

## **Thurs 4**

**Obituary, B Vashee 22. 2. 1944 – 18. 7. 05** – a leftwing African intellectual who was a prominent member of Joshua Nkomo’s Zimbabwe African People’s Union – one of the factions fighting for self rule in Rhodesia from the 1960’s.

Born in Salisbury, with a father who was a businessman, and educated at Morgan high school – a state school for Asian and mixed race pupils. A University place – at University College in Salisbury where he read economics.

**1965**, mid way through his degree course, and very active in campaigning against the white minority rule of Ian Smith – who had just declared UDI – was deported to Britain.

**1966**, continuing his degree course at the London School of Economics he became even more radicalised, after the appointment of W Adams as principal. As the former head of UCS, the new principal was the spur for a student report, which concluded that he did not speak out against the imposition of UDI.

**1969 – 1974**, University of Sussex where he gained a Ph.D. followed by a Masters degree. As the head, from 1972, of the Counter Information Services research unit which investigated multinational companies and their investments.

**1977**, as director of TNI, a ‘worldwide fellowship of scholar activists.

**1989**, having left his activist past, he taught at Hampshire and Smith colleges in Massachusetts in the USA.

**1991** resigned his position and although disappointed with Robert Mugabe’s rule returned home? – **GDN page 25 C 6 –**

### **Fri 5**

Headline – *Zimbabweans allowed to stay in ‘safe’ country policy review* – the judicial review (qv 15/7) has prompted the home office to delay sending back those that do not meet residency requirements until this review has taken place.

With 30 Zimbabwean nationals on the verge of being returned to Harare, this current case, brought before Mr Justice Collins by the Refugee Council involving four people, will now wait until a 11/05 ruling by the asylum and immigration tribunal. – **GDN page 2, C 5 -**

### **Mon 15**

Headline – *Harare ‘blocks food aid’*- Distribution of 25, 000 tons of international food aid, desperately needed for millions of hungry Zimbabweans, is being delayed by their government said Tony Hall a visiting US envoy.

He said he had been prevented from visiting a camp housing displaced in a slum clearance programme. – **GDN page 15 C 8 –**

## Fri 19

Headline – *Just another day in Harare* – as writer, and a member of the professional classes Ian Holding searches for the ever elusive petrol, gets caught up in Operation Murambatswani and the search for a dog license for his beloved Jasper. In his search for this piece of paper and attending a police station for guidance Holding is ticketed Z\$100,000/ 3 pounds [English] for having “not having red reflective tape on rear of vehicle.”

Also to contend with is the plea, from the housemaid, Agnes, to allow her 10 relatives to relocate to her one bedroom shack after they were made homeless – apart from the government run relocation farm – to move in. – **G2 page 2 C1** –

## Sat 20

Headline – *Zimbabwe rewards soccer heroes with cleared land* – just as illegal squatters have been ‘punished,’ by having their homes taken away from them, so another group of Zimbabweans have been rewarded.

The lucky ones, merely sportsmen, were the Warriors – a squad of 18 sportsmen – who won The Southern African Football Associations [Cosafa] Cup, which was played on 7/8. The unexpected win, against Zambia was played in Mabatho across the border in South Africa. The result – 1: 0.

News report – as a result of Operation Murambatsvina 700, 000 have been made homeless. A report, from Amnesty International, says that authorities in Harare have not closed the camps. Rather they have moved them to new locations. – **C4 18. 35 -19. 05** –

## SEPTEMBER

## Mon 12

Headline – *Mugabe says he will step down in three years* – this was the assurance he gave, when talking to British Channel 5 News, on the eve of his departure for a state visit to Cuba.

By the year 2008 dawns he will be 84 years old and as the president says himself “will want some rest.” However Mugabe still intends to take an active part in the politics of the Zanu – PF party. During the interview he associated himself with Prince Charles, with whom he claimed a ‘special friendship.’ Members of his household quickly denied this. – **GDN page 22 C 2** –

## Fri 16

Headline – *Mugabe woos China with wildlife swap* – as with so much, that affects the life in Zimbabwe president Mugabe has gone to the east, rather than his friends in the west for help.

His latest move is to send elephants, zebras and impala antelopes to China – scene of recent diplomatic successes (qv 27/8). In return Beijing is to send four Siberian tigers. These, according to the state owned Herald newspaper, will be released into the Hwange national park, and used in the captive breeding programme. This, it is hoped, will boost the ailing tourist industry. – **GDN page 18, C1** –

## Mon 19

Headline – *Minister vows to rid Zimbabwe of 'filth'* – these are the words of the minister of state security, D Mutasa, who says the same tactics used in Operation Murambatsvini (qv) will be used against the remaining 400 white farmers who cling onto their land.

Up until this time those remaining farmers were using the courts to challenge moves to evict them – *see Kocott p 177* - . However a recent move by the president has ended any hopes of legal redress they once had. By the stroke of the pen Mugabe has altered the constitution taking away the farmers legal rights to challenge seizure. - **GDN 15, C1** –

## Mon 26

Headline – *Zimbabwean football stars go missing after Bradford match* – the showcase match, between Caps United and Highland FC – arch rivals back home – were showcasing Africa's young talent had been organised by ZimEvents.

A spokesman for the British based company, formed by expats with a special interest in sporting events, thought those who had gone missing would be soon found, as investigators were on the case as well as members of the immigration department.

Although the 50 strong squad of young players who had come to this country were expected to leave, they were given permission to travel the country, to visit family and friends, 6 players had not returned when the teams left for home. – **GDN page 8 C 5** –

Headline – *Farmers injured as more white – owned land is seized* – hard on the heels of the ministerial announcement (qv 19/9) government supporters have acted. In the last few days farms in eastern Nyzaru, where 2 were occupied. In Chipinge a further three were taken over. – **ditto page 15, C 1** –

## Thurs 29

Headline – *Zimbabwe's economic crisis drive's it back to the steam age* – so severe are the shortages, in a country decimated by its inept rulers, that the National Railways of Zimbabwe are having to recommission 10 steam trains, and refurbish track the side equipment needed to keep the network operating. The whole exercise will cost Z\$2bn/44, 000 pounds [English] This move has been brought about by the lack of foreign currency to import fuel and spare parts for the locomotives.

Zimbabwe's currency fell further in value, against the US dollar, on the illegal; black market. As of now Z\$ 100, 000: US\$1. – **GDN page 17, C4** –

## OCTOBER

### Wed 5

Headline – *14, 000 arrested in new purge on street vending* – a two week round of street traders, shades of Operation Murambatswani (qv), and those dealing in illegal money trading has been ongoing during this period.

As a whole the number of street traders and squatters held under this long running government campaign is 46, 000 traders gone from the streets and 700, 000 homes destroyed. – **GDN page 16 C 5** –

### Sun 9

Headline – *Sher's debut as director puts Robert Mugabe on the couch* – The Royal Shakespeare Company, based in Stratford on Avon, are – under the renowned South African writer A Sher – to put an aspect of the Zimbabwean presidents life under the microscope.

Titled **Breakfast with Mugabe** the play takes as its premise that a malevolent spirit is haunting Mugabe in his presidential life. The spirit, or ngozi, is a visitation of Josiah Tongagara – who just prior to the country's independence was killed in an unexplained vehicle accident.

The action of the play, written by Fraser Grace, has the president on the couch of a white psychiatrist. Other subjects touched on, in this fictional conversation, touch on real life events of the president. These range from the desertion of his father – during his childhood – the death of his first wife and also attending the funeral of a son whom died while he was 'banned' by the Smith regime. – **IOS page 9 C7** –

### **Thurs 13**

Headline – *Central bank governor condemns farm seizures* – as to do so hampers the governments attempt to curb the country’s hyperinflation. In talking to the Herald newspaper the head of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, G Gonos, said that farm invasions interrupted the productive flow flowing from the wheat, coffee, tea or cocoa farm.

At the same time the government announced that the annual rate of inflation was 359.8%. This figure in itself had risen one third in just one month. – **GDN page 21 C 3**

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### **Sat 15**

Headline – *Judge orders end to deportations to Harare* – the 7/6 ending of deportation of Zimbabwean asylum seekers has been upheld. As the asylum and immigration tribunal considered the case of AA [see *The Times this date*] government policy was found wanting.

The normal home office procedure is once a Zimbabwe national has been returned to Harare a follow up investigation is ordered, as to whether the returnee was settled in a safe environment – as would be expected – by government officials. The decision of the panel was based on “existing policy” rather than the facts as they were pertaining at the present time. – **GDN page 5 C 1** –

### **Tues 18**

Headline – *Mugabe uses UN forum to compare Blair to Mussolini* – once again on an overseas trip – in violation of an international travel ban – Zimbabwe’s president has used the occasion to attack the actions of the British prime minister.

Speaking at the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation’s 60th anniversary gathering in Rome Mugabe said that Blair, and his friend the US president, were acting like the Italian dictator in his invasion of part of Africa in 1936, over their invasion of Iraq. He denounced the two as ‘international terrorists’ for the invasion.

Deviating further from his prepared text the president demanded to know by what right the two had the right to determine who should rule in Zimbabwe, Asia or in Venezuela. These remarks gained support from Hugo Chavez, in dispute with Bush, who praised Mugabe and added “the president of Zimbabwe is made out to be a villain because he takes land from those who don’t need it to give it to those who need it to live.” – **GDN page 14 C1** –

## Mon 24

Headline – *Home Office accused of ignoring Zimbabwe deportation ban* – with many, on their initial arrival carrying false papers immigration officials deem it OK to flout the recent ban on returning failed asylum seekers (qv 15/10) to Zimbabwe.

This flagrant violation of the judges ruling has come to light as two Zimbabwe nationals, Patience and Patricia Zondo aged 28, were taken from Yarlswood detention centre to be put on separate flights – from airports at Manchester and Birmingham – to be flown back to Harare on 18/10. As it turns out both removals were cancelled, however this was not before their guards did assault one of the women. Police are now investigating.

Since the judicial ruling lawyers acting for The Refugee Legal Centre have been able to prevent eight deportations which, if not – by sending them back to South Africa – is not an actual breach of the ruling, it certainly against the spirit of the ruling. – **GDN page 12 C1** –

## NOVEMBER

### Wed 2

Headline – *Zimbabwe farm seizures led to crop failures* – said the deputy agricultural minister, S Nuguni, when he addressed the annual congress of the Black Farmers Union in Harare. The blame for this crisis, that has seen 30% of the people dependent on food aid can be laid at the fact that much of the land was given to people who were “lacking the passion for farming” and the land given to “people without the faintest idea of farming.” These comments echo, to a certain extent, those of the governor of the central bank (qv 15/10) who blamed this government policy for the country’s ills.

Calls from the United Nations general secretary, Kofi Anan, for those involved in the recent clearances of squatter homes in Harare (qv) to be prosecuted and the fact that the government has rejected 17m pounds [English] for those – some 10, 000 – still homeless have “particularly dismayed” him. – **GDN page 25, C 5** -

### Wed 9

Headline – *US diplomat told ‘go to hell’ by Mugabe* – remark’s by the president to America’s representative in Harare. The ambassadors crime – to blame the current administration for the ongoing political, economic and farming crisis in Zimbabwe.

Announced Unemployment rates of 80% and Inflation rate of 359% all added to Mr Dell’s argument. – **GDN page 22, C5** –

Headline – *Chinese projects in Africa* – Zimbabwe, its largest investment in. It has several joint ventures with the Mugabe regime and donated 22 troop transporters to the army. –ditto page 25, C4 –

### **Fri 18**

Headline – *Big Brother's Makosi wins right to stay in UK* - 'One of the contestants, a failed Zimbabwean asylum – cardiac nurse – seeker who gave it all up to appear on television [BBC] has won the right to stay in this country.

In its decision the asylum and immigration tribunal, sitting in central London, said that the 25 year old had, by her television exposure 'changed the very nature ' of her profile. To send her back to Harare, after her notable – and some time sexual behaviour – on the long running programme could arouse the hate mobs in Zimbabwe. – GDN page 10 C 4

### **Mon 21**

Headline – *Mugabe hails uranium find and aims for nuclear power* – despite the apparent way out of a power short fall there are many pitfalls for the regime to overcome.

With only small amounts of this precious material, located in the Zambizi river valley north of Harare, the opportunity to produce enough to fire up a nuclear plant may not be there. Any such plant would take 5 years, from initial planning to production, before any power was generated. The country has no technicians, with the knowledge or experience, to run a nuclear plant.

What worries the west – and presumably the rest of the continent – is what will the enriched [weapons grade] uranium be used for? The country usually has a daily shortfall of 400 – 450 megawatts of its 2, 100 Mw needs. This shortfall has been made up from South Africa and the Congo, through the regional grid. Even then Zimbabwe has been late in paying its bills. – GDN page 15 C5 –

### **Mon 28**

Headline – *Zimbabwe's opposition split after Mugabe's flawed election* – to a re created upper chamber – the Senate. With a low turn out, estimated at only 15%, the ruling party won 19 of 50 available seats. Such a position was attained because the Movement for Democratic Change's leader had called for a boycott of the process.

Despite the ruling of Morgan Tsvangeria 26 'rebels' defied the ruling, standing mainly in Southern Matebeleland where the party is well represented. The 26 were expelled for their defiance.

Speaking, knowing that the MDC had won five seats in Bulawayo, Mr Tsvangaria indicated that there would be a new focus on a new more radical party emerging. There



would be more street protests and less contesting of elections that they were never going to win. As to the economic prospects of the country – the latest inflation figure is put at 411% and rising. – **GDN page 16 C1** –

## **DECEMBER**

### **Wed 7**

Headline – *Lights out as Mugabe pledges energy deal* – as the president was about to make a televised speech from parliament, which would announce a new deal – and search – for energy sources – the power failed in Harare for 30 minutes.

This is not the first time that ‘the lights have gone out’ as the nation suffers because of the actions of the ruling administration. Several weeks ago the national airline had to ground eight of its planes due to a shortage of fuel. This 24 hour stoppage was the first time that this has occurred. – **GDN page 19 C 1** –

### **Thurs 8**

Headline – *Aid chief urges charges over mass slum clearance* - J Eglund, the head of the United Nations, made this call after a four day visit to the country humanitarian.

Speaking of Operation Matrambatsvini (qv) Mr Eland said, “Crimes were committed.” Of her visit the UN official said that her meetings with Mugabe were full of confrontations, this was particularly obvious when it came to providing aid to the county.

Despite this there was an appeal to the international community to provide \$276m/159m pounds [English] to help the homeless, hungry and Aids sufferers. – **GDN page 22 C5** –

### **Fri 9**

Headline – *Zimbabwe’s last independent publisher has passport seized* – in the Mugabe administrations latest attempt to stifle criticism of its regime.

Having from Johannesburg to Bulawayo, to attend his mother’s funeral, Trevor Ncube was stopped, as he was about to leave the airport building. Approached by members of the Central Intelligence Organisation who took his passport, he was told that he was one of 60 individuals who must forfeit their passport to prevent them travelling to criticise the government.

Mr Ncube, and the newspapers he used to own – his Daily News was shut down of government orders – *see page 263* - is one of the three titles he has control off in the country. He also owns the Mail and Guardian in South Africa.

Speaking of this, the latest move, to silence critics of this regime, J Makumbe a lecturer in political science at the University of Zimbabwe, said “ ... The government will pounce on all critics and tell them they are locked in Zimbabwe. The country is becoming like a big prison.” – **GDN page 18 C1** –

### **Sun 11**

Headline – *Crackdown on NGO's hostile to Mugabe'* – Zimbabwe's ruling party recommended yesterday a crackdown on Western sponsored rights groups of non – governmental organisations, accusing them of hostility to President Robert Mugabe.

This latest move, which will be seen by those opposed to the rule of tyrant Mugabe as a further nail in the coffin of free speech that is spreading throughout the country, the latest of which was shown with the seizure of the passport of T Ncube (qv 10/12) as he left Bulawayo airport. – **IOS page 41 C2** –

### **Mon 12**

Headline – *Publisher in legal challenge to Zimbabwe travel ban* – as T Ncube has his opportunity to go overseas withdrawn (qv 10/12) so – according to the publisher of the Zimbabwe Independent and The Sunday Standard newspapers – do other ‘notables.’

High on the government's list is lawyer Beatrice Mtetwe who has gained notoriety as the legal representative of this diarist's chief source of news from the country, Andrew Meldrum (qv).

Other voices to silence are those of Raymond Majongwe, leading teaching union leader, and civic leader Brian Kagoro. **GDN page 15 C5** –

### **Fri 16**

Headline – *Mugabe goes back to 70's on CD of speeches* – to create the fighting spirit of an era when he was seen as a national hero as he fought a liberation war against the Smith regime.

According to W Shamu, minister of policy entertainment, as well as being ‘good family entertainment’ the compilation – titled *Mugabe Speaks* - will be of use to scholars who study liberation movements. – **GDN page 23 C 4** –

### **Tues 20**

Headline – *UK agencies still hiring poorest nations' nurses* – according to the Nursing and Midwifery Council the number of Zimbabwe trained nurses who have found work on the UK register in 2004 – 2005 was 311. Most of these would have been recruited by private nursing agencies, thereby breaking a government sponsored initiative not to deprive sub Saharan Africa of such a valuable resource. – **GDN page 4 C 5** -