

JANUARY 2011

Sat 1

Headline - *Hackers target Mugabe WikiLeaks* - as a result of the attempt of the presidents wife's legal action against one of the countries newspapers in respect of her alleged ownership, from 2008 (qv 11/12), of a number of diamond mines in the Mutare district close to the Mozambique border.

Claiming that the Standard newspaper is defaming her good character Grace Mugabe is claiming £9.5m / \$15m from its publishers. The paper also claims that senior Zanu PF party members are making "several hundred thousand dollars a month" from the sale of the precious stones.

All in all the cyber attack, which was mounted by a loose association of approximately 1, 000 strong group, known as Anonymous, kept the government web site off the air for much of the day. Government officials deemed this because the site was under repair. - **GDN page 20 C 5** -

Sat 22

Headline - *Third of Zimbabwe voters dead* - indicates the Zimbabwe Election Support Network. As to the age of the 5.2 million voters, many of whom are now dead, the roll shows that 27% of those said to be eligible to vote are in fact deceased.

The computer test revealed that 2, 344 people who were born between 1901 and 1909 were still on the voters roll. With an acknowledged life expectancy of only 43 years the accuracy of the voters roll is of some concern to the Movement of Democratic Change as a general election is in the near future - **GDN page 26 C 4** -

Sun 30

Headline - *Mugabe set to make millions from massive sale of diamonds* - and along the way secure the dominance of Zanu PF in the coming general election. Already it has been noted , by academic J Makumbe from the University of Zimbabwe, that there seems to be an estimated £20m spent in the purchase of seed and farm machinery, seeds and tools in the countries rural heartland.

It would seem that this sudden wealth has come from the acceptance of the Kimberly Process (qv 24/7) that the vast diamond mines in the Chaldwazwa region of eastern Zimbabwe are produced from legal mines without any intimidation of the workers. This is disputed by humanitarian organisations which point out that the verification process, so recently reintroduced - and suspended in 11/010 - has now been given the go ahead.

The presidents partner in the coalition, M Tsvangaria points out that with this sudden wealth grabbed by his opponent Zanu - PF will have an unfair advantage. Within the next seven days pro democracy organisations will petition the annual African Union to call for the election to be delayed till 2013. - **GDN page 18 C 1** -

Mon 31

Headline - *An atlas of pollution : the world in carbon dioxide emissions* - from the American Energy Administration shows that Zimbabwe, in the year 2009, caused 10.6m tonnes of this green house gas to pollute the atmosphere. Thus placing it in the 100th position out of 217 nations on this earth. In contrast the African continent 1,122m tonnes, which was 3.1% down on 2008. The World : 30.452 a fall of 0.1% on the previous data.

FEBRUARY

Wed 2

Headline - *China ready to pour \$100bn into Zimbabwe* with the main beneficiaries being the diamond mining and agriculture sectors. While it is known that there is a rich seam of the precious stones in the eastern border region of Marange (qv 31/1) staple food harvests are not so plentiful.

With the aid of the Chinese government investment it is expected that the maize crop will be 1.5m tonnes up from 1.3m in 2010. Gold mining is expected to produce 13 tonnes up from 8.3 tonnes twelve months ago.

Giving a more pessimistic view is the publisher of the countries newest newspaper NewsDay, T Ncube, warned that these new investors were not being altogether humanitarian in their outlook. They were out to make a profit.

With a Gross Domestic Product expected to rise to £3.72bn /\$6bn over the next 12 months and China/ Africa trade up 45% £75bn / \$11.48bn this new investment could be hijacked by the president to show his coalition partners in a poor light as a general election nears - **GDN page 18 C 1** -

Fri 4

Headline - Pro Mugabe militants blamed asviolence erupts - in Mbare township outside the countries capital Harare. Much of this violence in this a general election, mid 6/11 it is rumoured to be the right time, year is placed at the feet of the young 'thugs of the youth wing of Zanu PF.

In this latest incident, which took place outside offices run by the Movement for Democratic Change, 70 members of the youth wing were bussed in. These loyalists then began attacking those gathered there.

With its hands on the wealth created by diamond extraction (qv 30/1) Zanu PF, according to Nelson Chamasi a member of the MDC and a government minister, "violence is escalating and we are really worried I think it's the talk about elections." **GDN page 28 C 5**

Sat 5

Headline *Britain a refuge to nearly 400 war criminal suspects* - and among this number it is alleged, by a special unit from inside the UK Border Agency, that there are thirty two Zimbabwean nationals who are deemed worthy of investigation. - **GDN page 16 C 1** -

Tues 15

News item - The acquittal of the MDC member of parliament Roy Bennett (qv 11/5) has not seen him take up his appointed cabinet position. So fearful for his life is he that he has lived in London exile ever since that date. Describing the conditions in the prison he was held in the white farmer described as being like those found in the concentration camps of World War Two. Conditions were such that inmates were only offered one meal a day and the HIV virus was endemic.

Turning to the Mugabe proposed elections the exiled Bennett that incidents of Zanu inspired violence seen in Harare (qv 2/2) will only become more evident as any fixed date is agreed. As to whether the president has the authority to call elections Mr Bennett points out that the international agreement, involving the EEC and the Southern African Development Community et al, that saw the 2009 coalition come into being never addressed this issue. - **Radio 4 6. 50 am Today** -

MARCH

Fri 18

Headline – *Six granted bail in treason case over uprising videos* – of events in Tunisia and Egypt. The six were detained on 19/2 along with 40 other activists, students and trade unionists who were later freed. They were all attending a discussion by former opposition law maker Munyaradzi Gwisi about the north African revolutions.

In court prosecutors claim that the group were plotting to overthrow president Mugabe. At their second appearance in court, on 16/3, before high court judge Samuel Kudyia claimed that the evidence against the six was unsubstantiated. - **GDN page 25 C 1** -

Mon 28

a history note – 1968

Headline- *Danger of using force in Rhodesia* – is to invite the whole continent to rise up and rebel against their government. It would be best, as prime minister Harold Wilson told parliament, if measures were taken to show to the rebel regime that their position was one of isolation if they did not end their stand against the Crown. Sanctions were the best option to achieve this. - **GDN page 32 C 1** -

JUNE

Mon 13

Headline – *Mugabe credits Cameron for easing tension with Zimbabwe* – so says spin doctor Jonathan Moyo and now back in prominence after being expelled from Zanu PF for his criticism of the president in 2004.

Back in the fold on 2009 and expected to play a lead role in the forthcoming general election Moyo's understanding is that his president honours the British prime minister with easing the tension between the two countries. 'He keeps his views on Zimbabwe to himself', which is more than either the Blair or Brown did.' **GDN page 19 C 5 -**

Wed 15

Headline – *GDP growth per person* – between 2001 – 2010 for a Zimbabwean national it fell by 5. 1% - **G2 page 3 C4 -**

AUGUST

Mon 8

TV programme **Panorama Mugabe's Blood Diamonds BBC1 20. 30 – 21. 00** reporter Hilary Anderson investigates the deaths of illegal diamond miners on the Marathoner diamond fields that cover an area of 26 square miles close to the Mozambique border.

Interviews eye witnesses to the time when 1500 troops and police, loyal to the president, mounted an operation over a 21 day period of 2008 to ensure any diamonds that were mined ended up under his control. According to those who were 'in the field' these actions were carried out as operation 'You Shall Never Return'.

Going into South Africa, to Johannesburg, details of the deaths and there locations, were provided by those who had fled across the border and felt huge guilt after their actions. As many as 80 bodies were noted to have been buried, over a three week period, in a mass grave at Youngberry cemetery. Workers there indicate this is only one of many such mass graves in the area.

The Zimbabwe refugees also told of the Dengue torture camp, on of 3 in the diamond field, where mass rapes and brutality took place. Such evidence, along with noted evidence of the number of bodies brought to the areas morgues, would be 'of interest' if any charges of war crimes was brought against Mugabe or the heads of the Army of Air force, according to the head of the International Courts of Justice : L Campos.

All this concern comes at a time when the extraction of stones has been passed by officials of the Kimberly Process (q 30/1). Standing out from this decision is diamond merchant M Rapport who belies any more selling of the stones, and the added human rights abuses 'is wrong.' Such concerns are dismissed by N We scot of the Kimberly

Process, even when their investigation in 2010 (q 16/7) stayed in the area for 48 hours.

Speaking to a Hatton Garden trader, after about 30 others refused to go on camera, it would seem that the public do not ask where their bling comes from and care even less. - see DVD 2 -

Tues 16

Headline – *The west's gift to Mugabe* – would be to support the relaxation of the international sanctions placed on the president, Zanu PF officials and their relatives in times past. These personal conclusions were made by the writer, as a delegate of the International Bar Association. During their time in the country there was meetings with all peoples of political persuasion as well as members of civics society.

With presidential elections due in 2012 it was hard to say that Mugabe, at 87 years, will be the choice of Zanu PF, as they, along with coalition partner the Movement for Democratic Change, desire an election free from the violent disorder of the last one. To have such a contest would also be 'catching the mood of democracy' that is sweeping the African continent. - Coner Foley, GDN page 28 C 2 -

OCTOBER

Fri 7

Headline – *Archbishop requests meeting with Mugabe* as a side bar to the eight day tour of the African continent that the head of the Anglican church is about to set out on.

Making very sure that this request is not on behalf of the London administration the foreign office has distanced itself from the coming tour. At the heart of the prelates request is the disorder in the Anglican congregation in Zimbabwe.

Principally the dispute involves two clerics who see themselves as the head of the Anglican church in Zimbabwe. The two, Noblet Kunonga, as of this time an excommunicated bishop of Harare and the Mugabe imposed bishop Chad Gandiye who now claims to be 'Gods representative' in Zimbabwe. - GDN page 27 C 1 -

Sat 8

Headline – *Arab uprising upsets Mugabe* – even as those charged with treason (qv 18/3) have had their charges downgraded to 'threatening to incite public violence.'

As Africa's oldest leader the ideals of the 'Arab spring' were an anathema to him after he warned that “we must remain prepared to defend our country and sovereignty.” Of those long standing Arab leaders, who lost power, the president blamed them for not reading the signs. - GDN page 33 C4 -

Mon 10

Headline – *Cheers for Williams in Harare as he takes on Mugabe* – with a sermon that attacks the country's violence and lawlessness. As the Archbishop arrived at a sports stadium, he as most Anglicans are 'locked out' of the cathedral, 15, 000 church members ululated and blew their whistles in support of his visit.

His sermon, to those gathered, noted that it was tragic that so many lived in daily fear of attack if they failed to comply “with what the powerful require of them.” This may be seen a coded attack on president Mugabe, even as there is no decision as to whether the president will make time to talk with him. - **GDN page 7 C 1** -

Tues 11

Headline – *Mugabe offers Williams tea – as for sympathy* over tea and scones in the presidential residence the head of the Anglican church offered a dossier of complaints, from Zimbabwean church followers, of cases of abuse harassment and lawlessness. In return Mugabe offered a lecture on Anglo/ Zimbabwe relations.

From those that had usurped the position of head of the nations church, bishop Nolbert Kunonga, there was an attack on the position of homosexuals within the church. Such comments brought the response that by promoting this the cleric was “throwing sand in the air, ” with the aim of “distracting people from the real issue. **GDN page 1 C 5**

Wed 12

Headline – *'Branson in Mugabe exit plan'* says a 'note in history' or so says a leaked Wikileaks diplomatic telegram, in 2007, from the American ambassador in Pretoria. Emerged details indicate that the British entrepreneur was to channel cash to Zimbabwean politician Jonathan Moyo.

For the plan to succeed some of the African continents Elder Statesmen, N Mandela, S Nujama along with K Kaunda would meet on 17/7, with Branson to try and work out a way forward.

It is noted that the intention of the Elders was to produce a “broad based government of national talents.” In effect this was the outcome, even if it occurred after the general election. - **GDN page 24 C4** -

Sun 22

Headline – *A Sinister Turn in Zimbabwe* leads to the expulsion of many clerics from rural churches following the 'hijacking the Anglican cathedral in Harare. One such cleric, to face expulsion, was of the Reverend Samuel Sifelani, who was thrown out of St Andrews in the city of Bindura in 7/10. His crime; backing the newly imposed Archbishop of Harare Norbut Kunoga.

Deprived of their place of worship, St Anne's congregation now have to worship on the campus of local German run high school. - **J Hammer, NY Review : OBS** -

Tues 25

Headline - *Mugabe is unlikely to share Gaddafis fate. His real enemy is failing health* – as he nears the end of his eighth decade on this earth. It is after his death, some say it is his reign is 'the toxic glue that is holding the country. - **G2 page 5** -

Sun 30

Headline – *Thatcher talks cut from Guinea memoirs* – even before lawyers have seen a final draft of the inside story of the failed west African coup. With his inside knowledge Simon Mann writes, in Cry Havoc, of meetings that took place between himself and the then Cape Town resident Mark Thatcher.

Detailed in the memoir include a 2003 meeting at the Chester Square London home of the son of the former prime minister. Rather than just a procurer of a helicopter, as claimed at the trial of the former SAS officer, Mark Thatcher was seen as 'a high profile secret backer' in the failed attempt to oust the president of Equatorial Guinea in 2004. **OBS page 20 C 1** -

NOVEMBER

Fri 4

Headline – *Demons of violence are back warns Tsvangaria* – as security forces loyal to president Mugabe sealed off his parties offices in the capital Harare. It appears that with the firing of tear gas canisters into the building that the time is right to resume the political battles that ensued before the 2008 which ended in stalemate.

After much discussion, and mediation, Morgan Tsvangaria and the Movement for Democratic Change joined in a coalition with Mugabe's Zanu PF. **GDN page 34 C 5**

DECEMBER

Fri 2

Headline – *Tsvangiri calls off wedding after 'political and media' plot* to blacken his character as the rumours abound that his fiancé is pregnant. The leader of Zimbabwe's parliamentary Opposition party and the country's prime minister, widowed in 2009 after a road traffic accident (qv 7/3) was ready to cement his new love with marriage to Locadia Karmatsenga until the gossips had their say.

Ritual; the payment of a bride price - £23, 000 /\$36, 000 for the purchase of ten cows for the brides family had already been paid on 18/11. It was only on 1/12 that the gossip, that the soon to be politician's wife was pregnant became too much for the MDC leader to bear. The wedding was called off. Even a plea from president Mugabe to the press and others to stop failed to change Tsvangiri's mind.

In a small way if the marriage had taken place the two main political spheres would have been linked in some small way. On the 'wife's' side of the family her late father

is said to have been a fighter in the Mugabe led Zanu that was part of the forces that ousted the Smith regime. Her elder sister, Beatrice Nyamupinga, sits in parliament as a Zanu PF MP. - **GDN page 39 C 1** -

Tues 6

Headline – *Human rights watchdog quits diamond scheme*; the Kimberly Process when those digging for the precious stones have been seen to suffer from the harsh regime of the state as noted in the Panorama programme (qv 8/8).

The departure of Global Witness raised questions about whether the diamond consumers who purchase the finished product are not fuelling the conflict.

“Consumers have the right to know what they are buying and what was done to obtain it. The diamond industry must finally take responsibility said the charities founding director Charmain Gooch. - **GDN page 26 C 5** -

Sun 18

Headline – *Blood diamond 'betrayal' helps Mugabe fund new election terror* – as much of the money raised from the selling of legitimately mined from the Marange diamond fields outside the eastern town of Mutare.

The purchasers, mainly the Anjin Investment company of China. The cash raised thus is rumoured to have been used by Zimbabwe's central intelligence agency in support of Zanu PF/ Mugabe challenge to become the winner in the 2012 general and presidential elections.

Notwithstanding this attempt, by one of the coalition partners in the country's unity government to outwit the other, the Marange field products have already caused concerns (qv 6/12).

The charity, Human Rights Watch, is calling on the international community, through the Kimberly Process, to tighten up their procedures as to the human conditions of the workers who actually mine the diamonds. - **OBS page 22 C 1** -