

## ZIMBABWE ELECTIONS 31 JULY 2013: VOTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS – order your campaign pack now!

Dear Activist,

I'm emailing with an important update relating to the **Zimbabwe Elections: Protecting Human Rights Defenders** campaign. This is further to the briefing you should have received in last month's mailing.

You may have seen in the media that President Mugabe has just announced the date for the Zimbabwe elections: they are due to take place on 31<sup>st</sup> July – though it is worth noting that Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai is disputing this date.

When Zimbabwe last held elections in 2008, unprecedented levels of politically-motivated human rights violations took place. More than 200 people were killed, 10,000 injured and 28,000 forced to flee their homes. **With less than 7 weeks to go until the polls are due to open, it is so important that we take action now to avoid a repeat of the violence and fear seen five years ago.**

In 2008 it was Zimbabwe's neighbours in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) who helped to reduce the violence. Now it is crucial that they act to prevent such bloodshed from happening again.

### What you can do:

Please help us to collect as many signatures as possible on **new action cards** addressed to the President of Tanzania, the Chair of the SADC group responsible for peace and security in the region.

To help you do this, we have produced an **activist pack** to support you in organising a stall with the look of a polling station, to help attract interest and engage people beyond your group with the campaign and get them taking action.

### These new materials are available to order NOW!

The ACTIVIST PACK (product code: HRD003) contains:

- 1 x cover letter: how to use the pack
- 2 x 'POLLING BOOTH' posters (A3)
- 1 x 'BALLOT BOX' sticker (A4)
- 1 x instruction sheet: how to make a polling booth and ballot box
- 1 x sample action card (A5, perforated) – *product code: HRD004\**
- 1 x campaign poster (A1, with smaller versions of varying sizes on reverse) – *product code: HRD005\**
- 2 x sheets of lapel stickers, 15 stickers per sheet (including 2 slogans: "I vote for human rights" and "Human rights for Zimbabwe" – *product code: HRD006\**

*\* Extra quantities of action cards, campaign posters and lapel stickers should be ordered separately*

Please **order your campaign materials by phoning TFS on 01788 545553** and giving the relevant product codes. **For efficiency, you may wish to order extra quantities of action cards and lapel stickers at the same time as ordering the activist pack.**

#### **CHANGE TO ACTION CARD ADDRESS**

When you receive your pack you will see that the action cards are addressed to be sent c/o AIUK. However, as time is now really of the essence, with less than 7 weeks to go until the polls are due to open, please can we ask that you instead send these directly for the attention of the President of Tanzania (the chair of the group responsible for peace and security in the region).

#### **Please send signed action cards (HRD004) to:**

President of Tanzania, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete,  
Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security  
c/o His Excellency Mr Peter Allan Kallaghe  
High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania  
3 Stratford Place  
London  
W1C 1AS

#### **Other materials you might find useful:**

In addition to the new activist pack and action cards, just a reminder that the following materials relating to Zimbabwe are also still available to order from TFS:

- Zimbabwe Election action card addressed to Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa and facilitator on Zimbabwe for SADC (product code: HRD001)
- Zimbabwe Election leaflet (product code: HRD002)
- Women of Zimbabwe Arise action card addressed to Zimbabwe Police Commissioner (IAR056)

You can also still find the May 2013 campaign briefing at [www.amnesty.org.uk/groups](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups) for detailed background to the campaign and internal guidance on answering questions.

#### **Spread the word:**

Please try to get media coverage of your activities to raise awareness of the campaign and make our support for Zimbabwean human rights defenders visible.

A template press release and letter to the editor is attached here. Please note that the letter to editor contains two alternative final paragraphs: one for if you are organising a campaign stall; the second so that, even if you are unable to organise a campaign stall, you can still encourage people in your local area to get involved with the campaign by signing our new online petition.

Don't forget to send us links to any coverage you achieve too – thank you!

**Keep up to date:**

Before, during and after the elections – whatever date they take place - our research team will continue to monitor the human rights situation in Zimbabwe very closely. For all the latest developments, and any new advice on actions, please stay in touch through the campaign page on our website [www.amnesty.org.uk/zimbabwe](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/zimbabwe) - please also visit this page to sign our new online petition.

Please remember that you can also keep in touch with the latest through the Zimbabwe Country Co-ordinator, Maggie Towse, on [maggie.towse@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:maggie.towse@amnesty.org.uk)

Thank you very much for your support of this important campaign, and best of luck with your activities.

Best wishes,

Tom Davies

Campaigner, Human Rights Defenders Programme