

ZIMBABWE ELECTIONS 31 JULY 2013: action needed now!!!

Dear Activist,

Further to the briefing you should have received in the May mailing, and to my recent email, this is an important update relating to the **Zimbabwe Elections: Protecting Human Rights Defenders** campaign.

On 13 June President Mugabe announced that the Zimbabwe elections will take place on 31st July. However, it is worth noting that Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has disputed this date, and also that following a special summit on 15 June, the Southern African Development Community recommended that the election date be pushed back to 14 August. Zimbabwe's constitutional court will now decide the final date for elections – but it is important that we act now.

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 just weeks to go now 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.

URGENT - 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.

Because of the urgency now that the election is so imminent, we have enclosed 10 copies of this action card with this mailing. Please do ask your group members to sign these. Thank you.

CHANGE TO ACTION CARD ADDRESS

You will see that the action cards are addressed to be sent c/o AIUK. However, as time is now really of the essence, 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

Want to do more?

Your support in signing the enclosed action cards and sending them on to the High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania as soon as possible will be very much appreciated.

But if you're able to do a little more that would also be fantastic!

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 too.

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*

You can **order these 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.

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 - 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

Thank you very much for your urgent support of this important campaign.

Best wishes,

Tom Davies

Campaigner, Human Rights Defenders Programme